

# **Advanced Placement European History**

## **Required Summer Reading/Assignments**

### **Required Summer Reading**

York County students enrolled in Advanced Placement European History for the next school year are required to read (prior to the beginning of school in September) one selection that has been identified by their individual schools.

### **Required Summer Assignment**

York County students enrolled in Advanced Placement European History for the next school year are required to complete the following assignment (a book analysis) prior to the beginning of school in September:

### **Overview**

Writing a book analysis for AP European History differs significantly from writing a book report for English class. Your primary task is to offer analysis of the content and the value of your book to the study of history. In the real world, another student would read your book analysis to decide whether or not that particular title would prove helpful in his/her research. Your job is to present a brief overview of the book and discuss how the book might help a researcher better understand a specific time period or subject. Use the guidelines below as you develop your review.

### **Writing Guidelines**

Follow the rules of formal writing (e.g., avoid first and second person [I, we, you], do not abbreviate or use contractions, check your drafts for correct spelling and grammar). Word process or type your final six-paragraph product in Times New Roman font (size 11 or 12) with double-spaced format. Use standard top and bottom margins. Cite information from the book using parenthetical notation with page numbers only.

### **Content Guidelines**

**Paragraph 1** The first paragraph of your analysis must introduce the book by title and author and give an overview of the content of the work. Do not attempt to retell the story or list all the information you read. Instead, give your reader an idea of where the book starts, where it goes, and where it ends. In this first paragraph, you should refer to key characters or historical figures but avoid the details of characterization.

**Paragraphs 2-5** These paragraphs constitute the heart of your analysis and give you the chance to demonstrate what you have learned from the summer reading assignment. Choose three separate parts of the book (one each from the beginning, middle and end) and write one paragraph for each to explain the value of those sections to a student of history. In each of your paragraphs, examine important or interesting specific historical facts. In the fifth paragraph, you should explore the less tangible aspects of the subject such as the atmosphere of a specific place or time, or the feelings or actions of an historical figure.

**Paragraph 6** In the final paragraph, you are to offer your personal reaction to the book. You may use first person here as the assignment calls for opinion. Explain what you liked or did not like about the reading, and why. Wrap up this part of your work by summarizing your idea of the value of the book as a summer reading assignment for AP European History. As you do this, consider what you learned that you did not know, the degree to which you understood what you read, and questions you thought the work left unanswered.

### **Final Thoughts**

Reread your final book review before you submit it for a grade. As you check your work, ask yourself if you achieved your goal: a well-written, well-constructed book analysis that tells a researcher whether the book will help him/her. Be sure to write in a concise manner and elevated tone. This book analysis will contribute to your AP teacher's first impression of you as a scholar. In this, as in all of your work, you should create the best product of which you are capable. If you have questions about this assignment, please contact your teacher. Good Luck!

**Evaluation: The book analysis will be weighted as one test grade during the first quarter.**