

Summer Reading

APUSH 2019

Dear Students,

Welcome to APUSH! Over the summer (or perhaps more realistically during the last two weeks), I expect you to read the following book: David McCullough, *1776*. You may order this on Amazon (\$1-\$5). I have included guided reading questions below. I will give you a test over this reading at the end of the first week of school. You will also write an essay on this book later in the quarter.

In addition to *1776*, you may want to get a jump start reading the textbook, James Henretta, *America's History* (8th or 9th edition is fine). This is *very* optional, however, many students like the idea of filling out the reading guides ahead of time in order to manage their workload over the course of the year. If you would like the textbook chapter reading guides, please email me and I will send them to you. We read a chapter a week and they are worth 15 points. They must be hand-written, either with actual pen and paper or with your stylus digitally (you cannot type your answers). Eventually, you will need to upload them to OneNote. We read a chapter a week.

Don't be overwhelmed! This is a hard course, but you will learn a lot and I promise it will be fun (at least it is for me).

If you have questions or concerns, please email me: tyrrellm@countryday.net

Have a great summer and I will see you at the end of August!

Dr. Tyrrell

Reading Questions for *1776*

1. Could King George III have done anything differently in 1776 to avoid war, or was it inevitable at that point?
2. Did he underestimate the Americans? How so?
3. What did you learn about George Washington from this book that surprised you? How much of what we know about Washington is a myth?
4. How important was Washington's role in American independence?
5. How did Washington try to overcome his failings? Was he successful?
6. Why did—and perhaps still do—people respond so positively to him?
7. How has the reputation of Commander-in-Chief affected wars in our country since Washington's time?

8. Was Congress right in not having Washington attack Boston? Why do you think Washington wanted to attack, especially when nobody else thought it was a good idea?
9. Washington was very concerned about his appearance. McCulloch writes: “And as with everything connected to that role—his uniform, the house, his horses and equipage, the military dress and the bearing of his staff—appearances were of great importance: a leader must look and act the part” (p. 42). How much of Washington’s ideas about appearance and presentation do you suppose was influenced by his living under a monarchy?
10. What do you think about Washington later deciding to wear civilian (rather than military) clothes when acting as president? Does this reveal anything about his character, his beliefs, etc.? And how much do you think that decision influenced the American people’s view of the Office of the President?
11. Washington was originally referred to as “His Excellency.” Do you think Americans today want their president to have an air of grandeur, or do they desire a more approachable “commoner” president? What are the pros and cons of both?
12. What were some of the biggest differences between the warring armies, and how did they affect the battles?
13. What about the American army surprised you? Were there any ways in which the inexperience of the American troops and their leaders were helpful to the cause?
14. In what ways did the technology of the time cause problems for the patriots that could have been avoided with today’s technology?
15. What formalities of war existed during Revolutionary times, and how does this differ from how wars are waged today?
16. What wins a war? Number of troops? Talent? Leadership?
17. Is it necessary for the enlisted to truly believe in the cause in order to win the war?
18. Are there any parallels to be drawn between the American Revolution and our current military conflicts?
19. Is it important for Americans to know the history of the Revolution? Why or why not?
20. How do you think modern English citizens would feel about this book and its portrayal of their history?
21. McCulloch wrote this history as narrative nonfiction. Was he successful? Were you more interested or engaged reading this than you would have been with a more academic take on the subject?
22. The author chose to focus on a single year: 1776. Was this adequate to tell a compelling and clear story? Do you feel like there are things you still want to know, background information you wish you’d had?

23. After reading this, do you find it miraculous America gained its independence?
24. Do you think you would have joined the American cause or stayed loyal to England?