

Classical High School
Summer Reading 2017

Advanced Placement United States History Summer Reading Essay Assignment

Assignment #1

Read *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder

1. Using specific examples from the book, in what ways does Snyder define liberty?
2. Using specific examples from the book cite the threats to that liberty.
3. Focus on any ONE of Snyder's specific current-day examples of that aspect of liberty **and** cite specific current-day examples of threats to that liberty. Cite all outside sources.

Essay Tips

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Essay Writing Tips

Answering essay questions generally requires a good deal of training and practice. Students too often begin to write immediately, creating a string of disconnected, poorly planned thoughts. You need to learn to attack questions methodically and to plan your answers before putting pencil to paper.

Carefully analyze the question, thinking through what is being asked, and identify the elements that must be addressed in the response. Others require you to consider all the similarities between people or events, and then to think of all the ways they are different.

After you have determined what is involved in answering the question, consider what evidence you can incorporate into your response. Review the evidence you learned during the year that relates to the question and

Supporting Documents

Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

David Walker's Appeal - 1829

It will be recollected I promised to demonstrate that we Colored People of these United States, are, the most wretched, degraded and abject set of beings that ever lived since the world began, down to the present day, and, that, the white Christians of America (more properly, pretenders to Christianity) treat us more cruel and barbarous than any Heathen nation [ever] did.

We were *stolen* from our mother country, and brought *here*. We have *tilled* the ground and made fortunes for thousands, and still they are not weary of our services. Why should they send us into a far country to die? This land which we have watered with our *tears* and *our blood* is now our *mother country*, and we are well satisfied to stay.

Will any of us leave our homes and go to Africa? I hope not. Those who are ignorant enough to go to Africa, the colored people ought to be glad to have them go, for they are ignorant enough to let the whites *fool* them off to Africa. America is more our country, than it is the whites--we have enriched it with our *blood and tears*.

They tell us that we are an inferior race of beings! incapable of self government!! --We would be injurious to society and ourselves, if tyrants should lose their unjust hold on us!!! That if we were free we would not work, but would live on plunder or theft!!!! That we are the meanest and laziest set of beings in the world!!!! That they are obliged to keep us in bondage to do us good!!!!!! --That we are satisfied to rest in slavery to them and their children!!!!!! --That we ought not to be set free in America, but ought to be sent away to Africa!!!!!!

See your Declaration Americans!!! Do you understand your own language? Hear your language, proclaimed to the world, "We hold these truths to be self evident--that all men are created equal!! That they *are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights*; that among these are life, *liberty*, and the pursuit of happiness!!ö Compare your own language above with your cruelties and murders.

Hear your language further! "But when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their *right*, it is their *duty*, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.ö Now, Americans! I ask you candidly, was your sufferings under Great Britain, one hundredth part as cruel and tyrannical as you have rendered ours under you?

From *The Liberator* by William Lloyd Garrison - 1831

I determined to lift up the issue of emancipation in the eyes of the nation, *within sight of Bunker Hill and in the birth place of liberty*. Let southern oppressors tremble -- let their secret abettors tremble -- let their northern apologists tremble -- let all the enemies of the persecuted blacks tremble.

Assenting to the "self-evident truth" maintained in the American Declaration of Independence, "that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights -- among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," I shall strenuously contend for the immediate enfranchisement of our slave population.

I am aware, that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I *will* be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hand of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen; -- but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest -- I will not equivocate -- I will not excuse -- I will not retreat a single inch --

