



Surviving Advanced Placement U.S. History *AP Hints, Tips and Recommendations*

Advanced Placement courses are designed to meet the requirements of a freshman introductory level college course. This means added speed of coverage and a higher level of rigor than most of the junior and senior high school courses that you may have taken, including high performance and S+ courses, in the past. In order to be as successful as possible in AP, I have compiled a list of hints and tips for students and their parents:

- Be resilient. Everyone struggles and gets frustrated in this course, at one time or another. Don't get demoralized and give up. Failed at a task. Who hasn't? Get up, dust yourself off and go back and fix it. Relearn, reread and review.
- Review with a partner or two, regularly. Weekly. Peer study groups are a pretty standard practice for college students. Use guided study as a meeting place, if you need one. Just be careful who you choose to study with. You're looking for someone to work with, not necessarily be social with.
- Do your homework on time. All of it, on time. It's practice for the AP test, class activities and college
- Get organized! Organize your time and your class materials, like handouts, notes and readings.
- Don't read and take notes at the same time. While note taking is an academic activity, and a necessary one, don't do them at the same time as it hinders comprehension. Suggestion: read the chapter first, then go back and take notes after while you skim read.
- Choose when you read carefully. Find a time when you can find a distraction free environment that also allows you to focus. Oh, and put the phone well out of sight.
- Annotate handouts and readings. File them all away (with discussion questions) in a logical place so that you can study and review them later.
- Test yourself often. If you go to google and type in "APUSH practice quiz" you'll get about 10,000 suitable sites. You can find two of my favorites at: <http://www.historyteacher.net/USQuizMainPage.htm> and <http://faculty.polytechnic.org/gfeldmeth/quizzes.html>. And that's just a start. Quizzing yourself often helps you think and understand what you know and what you don't.
- Use flashcards. Medical students use them. Law students use them. Make, print or purchase them. Use them often.
- Take notes in class. Every. Day. Standard operating procedure in college classrooms.
- Did I say don't get discouraged? I did? It's worth mentioning again.
- Use the chapter reviews at the end of each chapter. They resources, lists and questions that summarize the main idea of each chapter in the text.
- Use the Norton (the text publisher) Study Space at <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/> its full of helpful tools and resources to help students to improve. They also have the Norton [StudyApp](#) for your mobile devices... just go to the App Store.