

June 2026

Dear Student,

Congratulations! You have now completed the first year of the AP World History Program here at Suffern High School. As you are well aware of, we aim to provide a rigorous course that aligns with the AP College Board Curriculum Standards. This letter is designed to make you aware of the nature of work for the upcoming school year, as well as your summer assignment.

The reality is inevitable; in May of 2027 you will be taking the AP World History Exam offered by the AP College Board. It may seem like a long way from now, however the exam will be here before you know it. It is important to think about this prospect now. The amount of success you have will be determined by how hard you are willing to work to prepare as well as a solid skill base necessary to have success. I am a firm believer that what you put into the course is what you will get out of it.

There are many theories as to what makes a student successful. For an AP class there are several characteristics that are imperative:

- Substantial ability to read and write well**
- Have a mature mind to interpret and evaluate different perspectives**
- Exceptional organizational habits**
- Willingness to work hard; perhaps harder than in any previous academic experience**

There are many other characteristics as well, but I feel that the last bullet point is the most important. Potential that is not developed through hard work remains dormant like a gift in an unopened box. It is a cliché, but this is what we aim to do in APWH: work hard to make the most of our gifts. It is important to get started in this endeavor right away by discussing the summer assignment. It may seem early, but summer work is typically common in AP courses. It is particularly the case of schools in the northeastern United States that start several weeks later than the majority of schools across the country; usually in mid-August.

Your summer assignment will consist of the following:

- A) Chapter Readings and Questions**
- B) Opinion Paper**

Chapter Readings and Questions

You will be responsible for reading and answering questions in the 5th edition of the Traditions and Encounters Textbook.

You will be responsible for the following chapters:

Chapter 20: World Apart: The Americas and Oceania

Chapter 21: Reaching Out- Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interactions

Chapter 22: Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections

There are two aspects that are part of this component:

A) Chapter Questions

- There are a total of five questions that need to be answered
- Your answers must be in paragraph form
- Your answers must be typed; Time New Roman 12 Font
- You must submit them through Google Classroom by Wednesday, September 6th

B) Quiz

- We will review these chapters when you come back
- The quiz will be given on the 2nd week of school

Opinion Paper

You will be responsible for writing an opinion paper. The topic is “What was the most influential group/civilization up to 1200 C.E.?”

The requirements and directions can be found in this attachment. Some quick requirements:

- A) Times New Roman 12 Font
- B) Double Spaced
- C) At least 2 full pages; no more than 3 full pages.
- D) Besides information from the textbook, you must provide at least two reputable academic sources and provide the weblinks at the end of your paper.

Both assignments must be submitted through Google Classroom by Wednesday, September 3rd. You will receive an invitation to join the class page sometime in Mid-August. Submit both assignments together. Points will be deducted for any late work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at jwhalen@sufferncentral.org. I do check my email periodically over the summer.

Good luck with the assignment. I look forward to a productive year ahead. Enjoy the summer. Again, please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Jason Whalen
Suffern High School- AP World History
Rockland Community College, Adjunct Professor
jwhalen@sufferncentral.org
jwhalen@sunyrockland.edu**

Name: _____

AP World History II

Date: _____

Mr. Whalen

Summer Assignment: Chapters 20-22 Questions

Directions: Type your answers in paragraph form. Be sure to have it in Times New Roman 12 Font/Double Spaced

- 1) Compare and contrast the religious and social structures of the Aztec and Inca Empires
- 2) Examine the journeys of Ibn Battuta and Zheng He. How are they representative of an age of growing interactions between different parts of the world?
- 3) Examine the Renaissance and explain the foundations for this movement.
- 4) Discuss the technological innovations that allowed for exploration. What other aspects allowed for exploration to greater distances?
- 5) Analyze the implications of the Columbian Exchange. What were the positive and negative aspects of this interaction?

Digital Copy of Textbook/Chapters:

<https://sites.google.com/a/isd709.org/hollinday/whap/traditions-encounters>

Name: _____

AP World History II

Date: _____

Mr. Whalen

Summer Assignment: Opinion Paper- Most Influential Group to 1200 C.E.

It is quite evident that history has been shaped by various groups and civilizations throughout history.

From your study of history last year, there are plenty of groups that you learned about. Even to this day, many of these achievements that were developed thousands of years ago impact the way people live and function in today's world. What is interesting about this question is that there is no right or wrong answer; numerous groups have shaped the way we live today.

As far as periodization, a general tip would be to focus on Ancient Civilizations, Classical, or Post Classical up to 1200 C.E.

Note: You must choose a specific group. For example if you say Chinese Civilization, that is too vague; you will need to name a specific dynasty. (Hence the “fun part”)

For your opinion paper here are the following requirements:

- A) Times New Roman 12 Font
- B) Double Spaced
- C) At least 2 full pages; no more than 3 full pages.
- D) Besides information from the textbook, you must provide at least two reputable academic sources and provide the weblinks at the end of your paper.

Academic Resources

There are several methods to obtain the academic resources necessary for this paper

- 1) Some of you have learned how to research using the Suffern High School Library Media page.
- 2) In addition, some possible sites to consider include History Channel, PBS, Biography Channel, etc.
- 3) Another method I encourage in helping you find academic sources is using Google Scholar. This will filter out your search to help you locate academic sites. Here is the link <https://scholar.google.com/>

The purpose of this assignment is to assess your ability to make an opinion and to support your opinion with relevant points and detail to support it. For an opinion, there is no right or wrong answer, but your ability to make an argument and support it is crucial in this class. I do take into consideration that this is your first written paper for this class, therefore the grading process will be more student friendly, however I expect quality work considering this is an AP Class.

The due date for this opinion paper is Wednesday, September 3rd.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at jwhalen@sufferncentral.org