

Winter Break Book Report for AP History

Due: Thursday, January 3rd at the start of class.

No more than 500 words, typed, double-spaced, proofread. It must be submitted as a Google Document, shared with me as an editor so I can make comments. The title of the Google Doc must include your name and the name of the book/film. Your paper should have the full bibliographic citation of the book, properly formatted, as the title.

The content/format of what you hand in depends upon the type of book you read.

NON-FICTION BOOK REVIEW FORMAT: Three Parts

1) The first third is a description of the author's intent or purpose in writing the book and his/her thesis. What is the point of this book? Describe how the author has set up the premise. Was there a need for this book?

2) The second third of your review should describe how the author went about his/her task. What kind of evidence did he/she rely on? What were the author's sources - or does he/she even let you know? Does the author use intelligent graphics - pictures, tables, graphs, etc.? Do they help clarify and add to the text, or are they padding, or just confusing, or poorly introduced. Critique the support the author uses.

3) The last third of your review is critical. It is here that you evaluate his/her success in proving the thesis. Did the author persuade you? Did the author really bore you, interest you, or anger you, or confuse you? Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

FICTION BOOK REVIEW FORMAT: Three Parts

1) Give a summary of the book (tell me the story) - Identify the main characters along with some basic information about them. Give a brief overview of the plot and major themes of the book.

2) Relate the story to the period of world history and region/area described. What did you learn that you didn't know? Were you surprised by something? Did it add to your understanding of the region/time period?

3) A short evaluation of the book (did you like it, good/bad, etc.). Would you recommend it to others? Who would that group be and why? (Or if you wouldn't recommend it, why not?)

FOR BOTH: You should include no fewer than three quotes, with attribution (page # in parenthesis is sufficient. For a film, include the time-stamp, i.e.: 1:14:45).

If you choose the movie option, you must choose either a documentary/non-fictional film, or a fictional one. Then, in the above categories, whenever it says the word "book,"

substitute the word “film,” and compose the response. Films that are “based on real events” are still fictional!

You will be assessed on the completeness with which you address the above topics, and your adherence to the requirements of the paper. This will count as an essay grade for the second quarter. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a 0, a loss of choice in future paper topics, and the loss of my respect for you.