

US HISTORY I HONORS

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026

REQUIRED READINGS

[The Fabric of a Nation: Textbook](#)

Modules 1.2 through 1.6

Module 1.2: Native American Societies before European Contact.....	pg. 6 – 14
Module 1.3: European Exploration in the Americas	pg. 15 – 21
Module 1.4: Columbian Exchange, Spanish Exploration, and Conquest	pg. 22 – 28
Module 1.5: Labor, Slavery, and Caste in the Spanish Colonial System	pg. 29 – 35
Module 1.6: Cultural Interactions among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans	pg. 36 – 42

ASSIGNMENT

For each of the modules above, you must complete a set of Cornell style notes (model below) on lined paper (**typed/printed work will NOT be accepted**). This means you will have **5 total sections of notes** completed.

DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Your set of notes for each module (5 total), will be due the first class and will be used for our opening activities and in-class assessment. Although these are your notes, these will be graded and thoroughness is expected.

USI Honors Note-making Template

Historical Facts - Key People, Terms, Places, and Events	Define, Explain, Reflect, Analyze - on the key people, terms, places, and events <i>*May be in bulleted form rather than complete sentences, and you may abbreviate or use shorthand as needed</i>
Your work goes here...	Your work goes here...
Summary: If you had to explain this module to someone else, what would you say? (This must be done in no more than 5 sentences)	

Example/Model

This is a glimpse of a different module, not a finished version. This shows a sampling of how to organize your thinking in the Cornell model as you read through the modules.

Historical Facts - Key People, Terms, Places, and Events	Define, Explain, Reflect, Analyze - on the key people, terms, places, and events <i>*May be in bulleted form rather than complete sentences, and you may abbreviate or use shorthand as needed</i>
Articles of Confederation	• doc created in 1777 to govern the states during the Am. Revolution • limited national/fed gov and gave states more power • America's first Const
Constitution	• outline of how the U.S. gov is organized (created in 1787) • describes what the gov can and cannot do • created a stronger national/fed gov than Articles of Confed
Virginia Plan	Two house/bicameral legislature with representation in both houses based on population

New Jersey Plan	Single house legislature with equal representation
Connecticut Plan	Known as the “The Great Compromise” the Connecticut Plan proposed a two house/bicameral legislature with representation in the lower house (Congress) based on population and representation in the upper house (Senate) equal (2 per state).
¾ Compromise	Every three out of five enslaved persons would be counted towards the population of the state in order to have more representatives in Congress. Pushed for by southern states with large population of enslaved persons (such as Virginia or South Carolina)
Process of Ratification	<i>Reflection/Analysis:</i> There was a very big debate about how much power each branch of government should have and the Const. convention had many different compromises among the framers To ratify the U.S. Constitution, delegates bypassed state legislatures and presented the document directly to the people. Under Article VII, the Constitution required the approval of special ratifying conventions in at least nine of the 13 states to take effect, deliberately avoiding the unanimity required by the Articles of Confederation
Federalist Papers	The Federalist Papers is a collection of 85 essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay to persuade New York to ratify the U.S. Constitution, explaining and defending its principles like federalism, checks and balances, and separation of powers. "You must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."— Federalist No. 51 (James Madison). He discusses the system of checks and balances among the branches that the Constitution will provide
Summary: The Constitution is the foundation of our country and was developed in 1787 as an alternate new version of the Articles of Confederation. The Federalists of the era pushed for a stronger national government while the Anti-federalists wanted to secure more individual and states’ rights. They compromised in many ways (VA + NJ Plan = Great Compromise) and created a well-rounded, amendable document that has withstood and governed our country since (and they made some mistakes as well). One of the biggest compromises was the addition of the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Several people helped formulate/frame the Constitution including Jame Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Ben Franklin, etc.	