

Colorado Springs Christian High School

Summer Reading Honors U.S. History 2026

For summer reading in Honors U.S. History, you are required to read a non-fiction book on U.S. History. The analysis and opinion paper are due on **Monday, August 17, 2026**. **You will be given access to Turnitin on Friday in class and will be expected to upload your paper to Turnitin to submit it on Monday.**

Non-Fiction Book Analysis

Read a non-fiction U.S. History book of your choice. You may choose from the suggested list below, but you are not bound by this list. If you choose another reputable book, please email me for approval. Go with your interests! This book may be purchased, borrowed, or checked out from the library. You may also download for a Kindle type device.

As you read, consider the ideas below. Provide two passages/quotes that reflect *each* of the following:

1. Summarizes or encapsulates the significance of the event/person/idea in history
 2. Represents something you learned that surprised you and gave a different view of the event/person/idea.
 3. Represents where/when in history the author chose to start and stop their narrative.
 4. Connects the event/person/idea to current U.S./World events.
 5. Exemplifies author's bias/agenda. *Why is the author telling this story?*
 6. Exemplifies the author's worldview and beliefs. *How does it compare to a Biblical worldview?*
- Please provide the **passage/quote** with the page number(s) indicating *which* criteria is being met and **explain** how the criteria is being met.

In addition to the 12 passages/quotes, you need to submit a 500 word opinion on the book:

- Why did you choose the book?
- Did you like the book? Why or why not?
- Would you recommend the book? Why or why not?
- Please use MLA format including a header for your paper.

During the year, you may be called upon as an expert to enrich the curriculum when we cover the content of your book. You will share what you learned and how the book provides more insight into the specific era or topic in American history.

List of Suggested Non-Fiction Book Choices:

- *Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic, 1789-1815* (2009) by Gordon S. Wood
- *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (2002) by Joseph J. Ellis
- *Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for American Independence* (2005) by Carol Berkin
- *1776* (2006) by David McCullough
- *Alexander Hamilton* (2005) by Ron Chernow
- *Undaunted Courage: The Pioneering First Mission to Explore America's Wild Frontier* (1997) by Stephen E. Ambrose
- *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* (2020) by David McCullough
- *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (2003) by James McPherson
- *The Wright Brothers* (2016) by David McCullough
- *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* (1983) by David McCullough
- *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller* (2007) by Ron Chernow
- *1920: The Year of the Six Presidents* (2008) by David Pietrusza
- *Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion* (2006) by Edward Larson
- *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869* (2001) by Stephen Ambrose
- *The Great Awakening: The Roots of Evangelical Christianity in Colonial America* (2009) by Thomas S. Kidd
- *America's Book: The Rise and Decline of a Bible Civilization, 1794-1911* (2022) by Mark A. Noll
- *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (2005) by Mark A. Noll
- *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* (2006) by Timothy Egan
- *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America* (2000) by Ira Berlin
- *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* (2017) by Stephen Ambrose
- *Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II* (2013) by Arthur Herman
- *Vietnam: A History* (1997) by Stanley Karnow
- *The Men Who United the States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics, and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible* (2013) by Simon Winchester
- *The American Century and Beyond: U.S. Foreign Relations, 1893-2014* (2017) by George C. Herring
- *Restless Giant: The United States from Watergate to Bush v. Gore* (2005) by James T. Patterson

Please reach out to the counseling department with any questions. Hope you have a great summer!