

# APUSH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2025

Welcome to APUSH '25-'26! This is a college level course that will require analysis and connections of content across all of the nine time periods in U.S. history.

Reading is fundamental to success in APUSH because the course asks you to analyze a lot of texts—primary and secondary sources—in order to see connections that are thematic in nature across time and regions. As a skill, reading gets better the more that you practice it. At first, you may be tempted to write down everything you read. Don't! Try to focus on the bigger picture—the larger generalizations and understandings. Read a little bit at a time; then think about what you've read. Picture the material in your head. Allow yourself to get lost in the story unfolding before you. Pay attention to maps, graphs, charts, and images. Be sure to put your phone away because constant interruptions will cause you to break concentration and lose your grip on what you are reading.

**DIRECTIONS:** Below you will find 3 speeches that you will have to read.

**Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1865)**

**FDR 1st Inaugural Address (1933)**

**Barack Obama's Speech on Race (2008)**

You will have to fill out a graphic organizer for each speech, that you can print from [HERE](#). If you cannot or do not wish to print you can write it out on a piece of paper. The graphic organizer will consist of four sections. One of the sections, Connections, will have these three questions below:

1. *What was the speech maker's point of view?*
  - *What message is the speaker trying to get across)*
2. *Who is the intended audience that the speaker is trying to reach and why was he trying to reach them?*
  - *(Be specific on who the speaker is trying to reach; examples: democrats / republicans / young people / males / females / factory workers / etc.)*
3. *What was the historical context in which the speech was given?*
  - *Historical Context is the setting in which a historical event, idea, or object takes place. In writing, historical context includes the social, economic, cultural, and political influences that shape your primary sources.*

**NEED HELP WITH THE ABOVE? LOOK HERE → [H.A.P.P.Y. METHOD](#)**

After you complete all three graphic organizers. You will pick the speech that you are most comfortable with. Write a four paragraph essay using your graphic organizer and the answers to the four questions above. First you are going to write an introduction quickly describing the speech you are writing about and why you chose it. Then, be sure to answer all of the three questions above in individual paragraphs following the introduction with examples and reasoning. Use evidence that you gather from the speech and your reasoning for including it in your essay.

**DUE DATE: First Week of School 2025**