

DMA Honors US History Summer Reading

Welcome to Honors US History with Mr. Scarborough. Honors US History is a challenging honors level course where students will be expected to write historical essays, analyze primary sources, participate in class discussions and become incredibly informed about American history. Cadets who agree to undertake this rigorous course will start the year off right by reading one book over the Summer. The book will be Lies My Teacher Told Me, by James W. Loewen. I recommend purchasing this book used on Amazon, but they can be found at most book stores as well. The project will be due the first day of school, no late work will be accepted. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at Michael.scarborough@dma.k12.de.us. Over the Summer I may not respond immediately so please be patient.

Project 1: Lies My Teacher Told Me by James W. Loewen

Loewen's book picks up on the problems of teaching and learning American history and offers a great analysis of key events most history teachers and textbooks get wrong. After reading through James W. Loewen's work please answer the following questions in a formal, 12 font, Times New Roman, 3-5 page essay. Points will be deducted if the paper is too short, or if the questions are not answered fully. Make sure to include a work cited for this paper and to make it MLA format.

1. Do you agree or disagree with Loewen's views about the problems with history textbooks and the way history is taught? Use specific details or examples from the book and your own experiences to back up your claims. Do not use general examples, make sure to use specifics!
2. What is one historical example Loewen describes being taught incorrectly that surprised you? Make sure to use details from the book.
3. Think back to a historical topic you have been taught before that you may think was not the whole explanation or story. How was the topic taught to you, and how would you change how that topic is taught now (the topic can be from the DMA, middle school or anywhere else, if you have trouble thinking about a topic, pick a topic you believe the majority of American students are taught wrong instead).
4. What are the ways Loewen states history could be taught better? Use quotes to back up your statements.
5. What lessons, (if any) will you take from this book in advance of taking Honors History this year? Has this changed how you will view history classes and history teachers?

1. Did you clearly state whether you agreed or disagreed with the book? ____/15
 - Did not use specific evidence to back up claims – 5
 - Did not use enough specific evidence to back up claims – 11
 - Used appropriate specific evidence to back up claims – 15

2. Did you include one historical example that surprised you? ____/15
 - Did not use details from the book – 5
 - Did not use enough details (or details too vague or general) from the book – 11
 - Used acceptable specific details from the book – 15

3. Did you include a topic you had been taught before and how you would change it? ____/15
 - Did not include how the topic was taught or how you would change it – 5
 - Not satisfactory explanation on how topic was taught or how you would change it – 11
 - Included how topic has been taught and how you would change it – 15

4. Did you include the ways Loewen states history could be taught better? ____/15
 - Did not include the ways or quotes to back up your points – 5
 - Included ways and quotes but may not fleshed out, make sense or be enough – 11
 - Included ways history could be taught better with quotes directly tied to the ideas – 15

5. Did you include what lessons you learned and how you would now view history? ____/15
 - Did not include lessons that you learned – 5
 - Included lessons you learned but they are rushed or not thought through – 11
 - Included lessons you learned on how you would view history – 15

6. Work Cited/Format ____/10
 - No Work Cited included (and,or) paper dramatically under 3 pages – 0
 - Work Cited incorrectly done (and,or) paper under 3 pages – 5
 - Work cited included correctly, paper is minimum 3 pages – 10

7. Grammar/Spelling ____/15
 - Major Grammar/Spelling errors throughout paper – 3
 - Moderate Grammar/Spelling errors throughout paper – 9
 - Minor Grammar/Spelling errors throughout paper – 13
 - No Grammar/Spelling errors in paper – 15

TOTAL: