

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 AP US History this year? Has this changed how you will view history classes and history teachers?