## AP U.S. History Book Reviews

**Historical Fiction:**

1. Read a historically based novel. The setting must focus on U.S. history.
2. Write a review in which you summarize, analyze, and evaluate the book. Address the following in your review:
   1. Acknowledge the author, title, publisher, and copyright date.
   2. List and briefly describe the important characters in the book. Determine which characters are historical and which ones are fictional.
   3. Summarize the plot (300-500 words—points will be deducted for extra long or extremely short summaries).
   4. Analyze how much of the book is factual and what has been added, modified, or left out to create a more dramatic effect. Support your analysis with specific facts.
   5. Cite any sources you research to determine factual vs. fictional information.
   6. Evaluate the quality of the book as a way to understand our past. For what type of audience would the book be most appropriate? Would it be a good novel to use in a U.S. History (college level and/or high school) class? Why or why not?
   7. Be sure to explain and support your opinion

**Historical Nonfiction:**

1. Read a nonfiction book which focuses on a significant event in U.S. history.
2. Write a review in which you summarize, analyze, and evaluate the book. Address the following in your review:
   1. What is the specific historical event and for what period of history (date)?
   2. Acknowledge the author, title, publisher, and copyright date.
   3. List and briefly describe the main historical people in this book (up to 6)
   4. What is the qualification of the author? What kind of historical references are used as evidence? Were differing perspectives acknowledged, or was it a one-sided story? Explain.
   5. What is the thesis (the main point) of the book? Is it convincing? Why, or why not?
   6. Summarize the content of the book in 200-500 words.
   7. For what type of audience would the book be most appropriate? Would you recommend it for U.S. History (college level) students? Why or why not?