## AP U.S. History Video Reviews

**Movie with Historical Base:**

1. Watch a historically based movie. The setting must focus on U.S. history.
2. Write a review in which you summarize, analyze, and evaluate the movie. Address the following in your review:
   1. Acknowledge the title, producer, date of release.
   2. List and briefly describe the important characters in the movie. What actors played these roles, and how effectively? 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 movie is factual and what has been added, modified, or left out to create a more dramatic effect. Support you analysis with specific facts.
   5. Cite the sources of your research to determine factual vs. fictional information.
   6. Evaluate the quality of the movie as a way to understand our past. For what type of audience would the movie be most appropriate? Would it be a good video 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

**Documentary:**

1. Watch a documentary which focuses on a significant event in U.S. history.
2. Write a review in which you summarize, analyze, and evaluate the documentary. Address the following in your review:
   1. What is the specific historical event and for what period of history (date)?
   2. Acknowledge the title, producer, date of release
   3. When and on what channel did you view the documentary—or cite the producer and date of release of the video/DVD?
   4. List and briefly describe the historical people in the documentary (up to 6)
   5. What historical references are used as evidence? Which historians are involved? Describe each of these briefly. Were differing perspectives acknowledged, or was it a one-sided story? Explain.
   6. What is the thesis (the main point) of the documentary? Is it convincing? Why, or why not?
   7. Summarize the content of the documentary in 200-500 words.
   8. For what type of audience would the documentary be most appropriate? Would it be a good video to use in a U.S. History (college level) class? Why or why not?