

CSHS (J Smith) Advanced Placement U.S. History- Summer Assignment

The summer assignment for APUSH is designed to help you understand some of the events that transformed our nation and assist you in developing background knowledge for your college-level course. The summer assignment film review is an opportunity to experience a richer encounter with history. Films can provide viewers insight into historical events that we may never encounter. Keep in mind that no movie can be entirely accurate, but when done well, can immerse you into a world that can connect your understanding to history beyond the written word.

For the film reviews, you are responsible for critically viewing the movie, evaluating historical accuracy and completing the evaluation according to the guidelines provided. You will be expected to complete **THREE** total film reviews—only choose **1** per Era.

Please note some of the films are rated “R.” You must have parental consent prior to viewing. “R” ratings are primarily for language and/or violence. There are PG/PG13 options also available in each Era.

Side Note -

1. Please do not avoid certain movies because of their age. You would be missing out on some excellent movies if you choose to stay away from older movies.

2. Please watch movies you have not seen before. This is supposed to be a learning experience, not just review. Challenge yourself and watch movies that are new to you, don't watch Saving Private Ryan for the tenth time because it would be easy to complete the assignment. Remember, you are in this class to learn and challenge yourself.

Eras of US History – Choose three total films (no more than 1 per era)

Colonial Era – Foundations of America (1492-1820s)

The Crucible (1996) – Salem witch trials; Puritans (PG13)

Last of the Mohicans (1992) – French & Indian War (R)

1776 (1972) – Musical about writing the Declaration of Independence (PG)

The Patriot (2000) – Revolutionary War (R)

Jacksonian Democracy – Reconstruction (1824-1877)

Amistad (1997) – Trans Atlantic slave Trade (R) (includes nudity & racial violence)

Gettysburg (1993) – Decisive battle of the Civil War (PG)

Glory (1989) – Civil War; African-American regiment 54th Massachusetts (R)

Lincoln (2012) – President Lincoln & the Civil War (R)

Gone With the Wind (1939) – Antebellum and Civil War South (G)

Immigration & American Frontier (1800s)

Gangs of New York (2002) – Civil War era cities and immigrants (R)

Far & Away (1992) – Immigration & Western Frontier Land Grab (PG13)

True Grit (1969) Law & Order on the Western Frontier (G)

Dances with Wolves (1990) – Civil War era & Western Frontier (PG-13)

Early Twentieth Century (1900-1950)

Cinderella Man (2005) – 1930s working class (PG13)
The Untouchables (1987) – Al Capone & the 1920s (R)
The Grapes of Wrath (1940) – the Depression and Dust Bowl
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) – Civil Rights & the Great Depression
All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) – World War I
Inherit the Wind (1960) – Scopes Monkey Trial (NR)

World War II (1939-1945)

Letter from Iwo Jima (2006) – WWII Pacific (R)
Unbroken (2014 – WWII POW (PG-13)
Saving Private Ryan (1998) – WWII (R)
Tora, Tora, Tora (1970) – Pearl Harbor (G)
Red Tails (2012) – Tuskegee Airman (PG13)
Fat Man and Little Boy (1989) – the Manhattan Project and the Atomic Bomb (PG13)

Cold War Era and Vietnam (1945-1991)

The Right Stuff (1983) – Space Race (PG)
42 (2013) – Jackie Robinson & Civil Rights (PG13)
The Help (2011) – Civil Rights Movement (PG 13)
Good Night and Good Luck (2005) – McCarthyism & the Red Scare (PG)
Good Morning Vietnam (1987) – Vietnam War (R)
All the President's Men (1976) – Nixon and Watergate (R)
Thirteen Days (2000) – Cuban Missile Crisis (PG13)
Bridge of Spies (2015) – Cold War US vs. USSR (PG-13)
Argo (2012) – Iranian hostage crisis of 1980 (R)

Additional Info:

- Make sure to check grammar, spelling, etc.
- Plagiarism – Never OK! A grade of 0 for any work that is plagiarized + phone call to parent + referral to administration
- Reviews **typed**, 1.5 line-spacing, 12 pt. font.
- Place all 3 reviews in a large manila envelope with your name and APUSH written on outside.
- **Must have Citation Page - MLA format.**
 - KnightCite: <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/>
 - Easy Bib: www.easybib.com

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2017 (papers will be picked up at 4:00 PM)—
TURN INTO THE FRONT OFFICE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL

APUSH Film Review Format

Student Name

_____ Title of Film (Year Produced)

_____ Based on a book? Yes or no.

_____ Director

_____ Leading Actresses/Actors

_____ Awards (nominations or wins-be specific)

1st Paragraph - A Brief Summary of the Plot

In no more than one GOOD paragraph, summarize the plot. Of course you will not be able to give all of the details. Just condense the main story into six to eight sentences.

2nd Paragraph - The Truth – Actual Historical Event or Time Period:

Research the **true history** of the historical event, person(s), time period, or institution portrayed in the film. You may want to begin with a film review site for an overview of the film, but this site will NOT provide students with the historical background, or content needed, to complete the review assignment. For research, students should use print or online resources. Do not rely on Wikipedia!

3rd Paragraph - Evaluation (answer each bullet point)

- Provide an evaluation of the film. Don't just say, "I liked it because it was a good movie," or "I hated it because it was boring".
- Did it hold the viewer's interest?
- Would you recommend the film to another student? Why?
- To what extent is the film historically accurate? Identify **specific** accuracies and director's liberties with the film.
- How has the film furthered student knowledge of the history portrayed?