TIP #1: LEARN TO MANAGE TIME. Students who take AP classes are many times those students who are also involved in band, theatre, sports, and clubs. And that is just while they are at school! These students also many times work part time and take more than one AP class! Time quickly becomes a valuable commodity. Learning to manage time effectively and to prioritize schedules and activities is difficult for most people – it is vital to success as an AP student.

TIP #2: READ THE TEXTBOOK. Not just World History, but ALL AP subjects require good reading comprehension and writing skills. This is especially true for English and History. When you read the textbook, you will get better grades. There are other payoffs as well. Research has shown that when students become avid readers they also become better writers.

TIP #3: BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CLASS. Don’t just sit there! Ask questions! Engage in a discussion - over the material, of course! When material is covered in class and you don’t understand, ASK QUESTIONS! If you don’t understand the reading assignment, ASK QUESTIONS! You not only will get your questions answered, but sooner or later your teacher will get the idea that this course is important to you, and you want to gain mastery of the content. And, if you didn’t know by now, teachers love this!

TIP #4: VISIT THE TEXTBOOK WEBSITE. Our textbook has a website for students which is quite comprehensive. There are reading quizzes, vocabulary words, chapter outlines, and study tips for students. Many times the questions used on exams in class come directly from the website.

TIP #5: FORM A STUDY GROUP. I encourage students to form study groups to regularly meet and review the material and study for upcoming exams. When you do form a study group, ask the people in your group how THEY approach reading assignments or taking tests.

TIP #6: INVEST IN A “HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE AP EXAM IN WORLD HISTORY” BOOK. There are many such books available to students which they may purchase at a local bookstore, or online. While these books offer valuable advice for students who intend on taking the AP Exam in May, they are valuable study guides which many times include test taking tips, subject reviews, and practice exams.

TIP #7: TAKE NOTES IN CLASS. Yes, this sounds rather obvious, but many times students who take AP classes have had academic success in elementary or middle school without having to develop good study habits. Students who take notes are processing the information.

TIP #8: PERSEVERE – EVEN IF THIS CLASS SEEMS OVERWHELMING. Don’t give up easily. Students need to learn that in life, most things of value require effort. The payoff for becoming a good AP student is that you will become a GOOD STUDENT! And that is the best reward of all!