Helpful Tips for Attaining Success in APUSH

**Specific Course-Related Help**

1. Always come to class prepared with reading materials and/or homework completed
2. Study: no matter how smart you think you are, this is a class that requires repetition. Study, study, study.
3. Take your writing assignments seriously. The written portion of the exam counts for 60% of the total grade and is 140 minutes long (multiple choice accounts for only 55 minutes).
4. Take part in class discussions. This course is designed to teach you how to **think, read, write** and **DISCUSS** like a historian.
5. Use Mr. Arnesen’s website: <http://mrarnesen.weebly.com>
6. Use Mr. Arnesen’s twitter for updates: @mrsiggya
7. Stay positive: by nature, this course is difficult. If you can stay positive about the whole experience, you will be in much better shape come December (when you realize how much information you have covered and how much you still have left to learn).
8. Don’t stay up all night working on assignments! I would much rather have you mentally present in class than merely physically present, like a zombie.
9. If you are taking multiple AP classes:
   1. Learn how to space your work out. For example, if you are taking AP English and APUSH you should probably stray from working on those classes back to back at night, as they both require a lot of reading and writing (brain overload).
   2. Learn how to balance your schedule… if you are in school all day, go to ten club meetings, leave to do homework until 2AM, then wake up again at 6AM… you need to reevaluate your schedule. That’s not manageable, nor healthy, and no college wants a student who was average at a lot of things. Colleges want students who are really good at a few things.

**Supplemental Help**

1. Buy the Barron’s Book:
   1. Resnick, Eugene. AP United States History. 2nd ed. Barron’s Educational Series. (See website for link)
2. Attend both Mr. Arnesen and Mrs. Cerbone’s tutoring.
   1. Mr. Arnesen will host tutoring for APUSH on Thursday afternoon’s at 2:30pm.
   2. Mrs. Cerbone will host tutoring for APUSH on Monday afternoon’s at 2:30pm.
3. Use resources available to you online to help aid you and prepare for class. Mr. Arnesen will be giving you his perspective of US History from sources that he has prepared with. Why not use other sources to aid your own learning? Some helpful examples are listed below. (\*\*\*keep in mind, these are not SUBSTITUTES for course material, they are SUPPLEMENTS\*\*\*)
   1. On Youtube, check out Crash Course US History for individual subjects you may be struggling with.
   2. Check out “iTunes U” (Stands for “iTunes University”) and try out content offered by various instructors. This may take some perusing; however, you may find a course you really enjoy. Keep in mind, you won’t receive credit for only listening to iTunes U lectures. Also, many of the lectures on iTunes U are not updated for the new 2014-15 AP Curriculum, so parts may be out-of-date.
   3. Check out Mr. Reed’s Podcasts using the following link: <http://74.220.207.112/~mrreedne/podcasts/podcasts.htm> Mr. Reed is a AP teacher who has thoughtfully put a lot of his material on the internet. Please keep in mind that, like John Green’s “Crash Course” videos, these Podcasts are great for review or for basic information; however, it still doesn’t by any means replace the value of reading the information in the book. These Podcasts are each very brief summaries of information that Mr. Reed deems important, but do not necessarily reflect on what the College Board deems important.