

AP United States History
1st Quarter Paper Assignment – DUE: Saturday, October 1, 2011
OPTIONAL – If you need an additional writing grade, complete this assignment

Your assignment is to select one of the following leaders and write a brief paper that **argues how important this person was to the success of the Revolution and new United States of America**. This must be a persuasive and compelling argument that thoroughly addresses the significance of this leader. This paper should include:

- ✓ An introduction with a thesis – how important is this person to the development of the United States?
- ✓ Short biographical information that is no more than one paragraph (i.e. home residence, etc.);
- ✓ Analysis of this person’s public career and how he was fundamental in the establishment of the new republic (need to make a clear argument for this person’s importance to the big picture: anything from the pre-Revolutionary period through the founding period and how this person was absolutely fundamental in the success of the new republic – **BE PERSUASIVE!!!**)

*Note: You could also use material before and after this time period only if it supports the argument.

Thomas Jefferson	Benjamin Franklin
James Madison	John Adams
George Washington	Alexander Hamilton

Format:

This paper should be at least 2 full pages in length, but no more than 4 pages. Margins should be set to 1” on all four sides with fonts at a rating of 10, 11, or 12 points. **This is intended to be a BRIEF free-response essay.**

Any information gained from an outside source must be cited in-text and on a works cited page. Any textbook material used must be cited properly, this includes information not directly quoted. If you wish to find outside sources, I encourage you to use the school’s subscription databases: Gale Group’s InfoTrac – Student Resource Center and/or Salem Press American History Database. Go to the Bishop Kenny website and click on “Media Center” for more details.

Submission:

You are required to submit this paper online through our new submission website, www.turnitin.com. All papers must be turned in by October 1, 2011*. Please refer to the **Papers & Electronic Communications** document for more information.

Writing:

You are expected as a junior in an A.P. course to write well. **Please consult the “Writing Advice” handout posted to the documents page of our website for basic expectations and reminders.** Do note that certain writing errors will result in specific point deductions.

Grading Rubric: **SEE NEXT PAGE**

Outstanding Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 100 95
(all criteria must be met to receive a score in this category)

- Paper has a clear introduction and thesis that presents an effective and complete argument;
- Background information/biography is brief and to the point;
- Supporting paragraphs contain adequate, specific evidence to prove the argument;
- Supporting paragraphs contain enough analysis that makes a compelling argument;
- All major evidence for person's career is present;
- Historical information presented is accurate;
- Paper is well organized and well written;
- Proper sources are used;
- Proper MLA format, sources cited correctly.

Excellent Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 92 90 88

One of the above areas not effective or minor error (as noted in the general comments section)

Good Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 85 82 80

- Paper does contain a thesis with an acceptable introduction;
- Supporting paragraphs contain some evidence and analysis to prove an argument (level of evidence and analysis affects scoring);
- Most, but not all, criteria above are met (in the top category);
- Paper is mostly well organized and written;
- May/may not have imbalance or slight inaccuracies that do not affect the overall argument;
- Proper sources used (may have very slight issues);
- Proper MLA format; sources cited correctly (must apply to receive a grade in this category)

Fair Paper, score (depending on effectiveness): 78 75 72 70

- Paper is mostly a biography and does not make a compelling argument for significance/importance; **and/or**
- Paper is missing some major information (automatic) – as noted in comments; **and/or**
- Paper does not have enough evidence and analysis to make an effective argument (automatic); **and/or**
- Several areas not effectively addresses or multiple criteria not fully met;
- May contain few major errors;

Poor Paper, score (depending on errors/conditions): 68 65 62 60

- Many errors in paper, OR
- Insufficient evidence and/or analysis to fulfill requirements (as noted)

Failing Paper, score (depending on errors/conditions): 50 40 30 20

- Paper fails to meet the requirements of the assignment;
- Paper may be completely off-topic.

Point Deductions: - 3 points for each major formatting error
 - 1 point for each spelling or grammar error
 Point deductions are also made for late assignments (see policy document)

Final Score _____