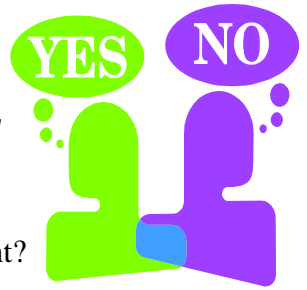


# SOCIAL STUDIES Summer Reading Assignment US History 1 – ALL FRESHMEN - DMHS & A@E



## WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS?

Do you love debating? Do you know how to structure and deliver a convincing argument?

Your first assignment in US History 1 will be a 3-4 page paper convincing your reader to feel the way YOU do about a topic of your choice. Go to [www.procon.org](http://www.procon.org). Scroll to the bottom and choose from among The 50 listed topics.

Click on the topic of your choice, one with which you have -- or someone close to you has -- a personal connection. **INJECTING PERSONAL ANECDOTES INTO YOUR ARGUMENT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT** (in other words, talk about yourself!). Spend **NO LESS THAN 6 HOURS** researching the topic, using at least 6 sources on this and other websites (click on each topic and you will see Pro & Con Arguments, Quotes, Historical Timelines, Videos, Related Articles, etc.). Take your time to **READ** and become an expert! Take notes on everything, and be sure to record your sources. Then write a 3-4 page essay (plus cover page & MLA works cited page) convincing your reader of your position on this topic, supported by facts and examples.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover page should feature an interesting, creative title for your essay and include hand-drawn or computer-generated graphics. Have fun with this, perhaps including a personal photo illustrating your position on the issue!
2. Opening paragraph must have a clear thesis. Be sure it states your topic and your position on it; then give clear arguments PLUS a counter-argument to show that you have considered both sides of the issue.
3. Using MLA format, include PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS and a WORKS CITED page. Learn how by going to <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/>.
4. Include some kind of personal reference or connection to the topic to make your argument more convincing.
5. **Formatting Criteria:** MLA format (one-inch margins on all sides of the page; 12 point Times New Roman; double-spaced text; indent paragraphs and do not insert extra spaces between paragraphs; put your full name in the top left corner of the first page of the essay and your last name and the page number in the top right corner of every page after that, one-half inch from the corner in the header of your document).
6. Consult and attach rubric to your essay.



**BRING COMPLETED ASSIGNMENT TO CLASS  
ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

***This will be your first History grade in high school, so give it your BEST effort!***

If you have questions, please contact [jaronson@epsd.org](mailto:jaronson@epsd.org) or [doshea@epsd.org](mailto:doshea@epsd.org)

**Please Attach—2018 US Hist Summer Reading Assignment -- RUBRIC**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_/40 points

**“Pros & Cons”**

40 points

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Outstanding</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>
<b>Topic is from the list on Pro/Con website and has two clearly opposing viewpoints. (5 points)</b>	Topic is from the list on Pro/Con website and has two clearly opposing viewpoints. (5 points)	Topic is from the list on Pro/Con website but viewpoints are not clearly defined or opposing. (3-4)	Topic is not from the list on Pro/Con website and/or is not controversial. (0)
<b>Argument is persuasive, well-developed, and supported by solid evidence. Includes personal references that connect to topic and counterpoint to acknowledge opposing point-of-view. Essay is 3-4 pages in length. (10 points)</b>	Argument is persuasive, well-developed, and supported by solid evidence. Includes personal references that connect to topic and counterpoint to acknowledge opposing point-of-view. Essay is 3-4 pages in length. (9-10)	Topic is not debated as effectively as it could have been; needs more evidence to fully persuade reader; few, if any, personal references; counterpoint is barely mentioned. Is less than 3-4 pages in length. (7-8)	Topic is not debated well; needs much more evidence and research to fully persuade reader; few, if any, personal references; little or no counterpoint; far less than 3 pages in length. (0-6)
<b>Sources are reputable and relevant to the topic. At least 6 sources are used, from a variety of media (articles, videos, websites). Essay reflects at least 6 hours of research. (10 points)</b>	Sources are reputable and relevant to the topic. At least 6 sources are used, from a variety of media (articles, videos, websites). Essay reflects at least 6 hours of research. (9-10)	Sources are somewhat unreliable and/or lack relevance to topic. Fewer than 6 sources are used, of a limited value and variety. Essay does not reflect 6 hours of substantial research. (7-8)	Sources are unreliable and/or lack direct relevance to topic. Far fewer than 6 sources are used, of little variety. Essay reflects far fewer than 6 hours of research. (0-6)
<b>Cover is creative and neat, with graphics and well-thought-out title. Includes author's name. (5 points)</b>	Cover is creative and neat, with graphics, well-thought-out title, and author's name. Includes clever photo illustrating topic of essay. (5)	Cover is somewhat creative, neat, with moderate effort in graphics; title could show more creativity. Author's name is missing. (3-4)	Cover lacks creativity and/or graphics; title shows little effort. Author's name is missing. (0-2)
<b>Mechanics, spelling, punctuation, grammar are flawless. All formatting criteria from assignment sheet are met. (5 points)</b>	Mechanics, spelling, punctuation, grammar are flawless. All formatting criteria from assignment sheet are met. (5)	Some errors in mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and/or grammar. Formatting criteria from assignment sheet are partly met. (3-4)	Numerous errors in mechanics, spelling, punctuation, grammar. Formatting criteria from assignment are barely met, if at all. (0-2)
<b>MLA format for parenthetical citations and Works Cited page. (5 points)</b>	Perfect MLA format for parenthetical citations and Works Cited page. (5)	Attempts MLA format for parenthetical citations and Works Cited page with some errors. (3-4)	Parenthetical citations and Works Cited page omitted or filled with errors. (0-2)