

# **Grade 11 – U.S. History and Government**

## **Grade 11 – A.P. U.S. History**

### **Summer Reading Assignment**

#### **Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis**

#### **Directions**

- The following reading guide should be completed during the summer.
- There will be class time for discussion before this assignment is due.
- The teacher will provide students with turnitin.com information when school begins.
- There will be an open-note exam on the book.
- The reading guide, in conjunction with the exam, will be worth 20% of the first semester grade.

#### **Instructions**

- For each chapter, answer the following questions completely.
- Answers must cite specific, relevant evidence from the text. Include page numbers – i.e. (#).
- All work should be typed in paragraph form – 12pt, Times New Roman.

#### **Introduction: *The Generation***

1. The major accomplishments of the Founding Brothers during the Revolution were unprecedented? Why? (Give 3 reasons)
2. What were the assets and liabilities of the United States in 1789? How did the liabilities make it difficult for the Founding Brothers to build a nation under the new Constitution?
3. What distinguishes the American Revolution from most, if not all, subsequent revolutions? Explain.
4. According to Ellis, why were the Founding Brothers successful? (He offers 4 reasons.)
5. Why does Ellis refer to the individuals as Founding *Brothers* and not Founding *Fathers*?

#### **Chapter 1: *The Duel (July 11, 1804)***

1. How did the characters and the duel represent political developments of the early republic?
2. When Ellis refers to “the supercharged political culture of the early republic,” what does he mean?
3. Why did the Burr-Hamilton duel become legendary – why did it matter?
4. Why does Hamilton call Burr the “Catiline of America?” Provide examples that support Hamilton’s view of Burr.

#### **Chapter 2: *The Dinner (June 20, 1790)***

1. What were the two issues at stake in this chapter and what were the obstacles of each?
2. What role did Madison play? Hamilton? Jefferson?
3. How does the Compromise of 1790 illustrate the disagreements among the leaders of the revolutionary era?

### **Chapter 3: *The Silence* (February 11, 1790)**

1. What occurred in the House of Representatives on February 11, 1790?
2. Describe in detail the arguments presented by James Jackson (GA) and William Loughton Smith (SC) in support of slavery.
3. Describe in detail the counterargument presented by John Laurance (NY) and Eldridge Gerry (MA) in response to Jackson and Smith's justification of slavery.
4. What were the proposals for gradual emancipation? According to Ellis, could gradual emancipation have been feasible?
5. What was Benjamin Franklin's role in the 1790 debate over slavery?
6. What does Ellis mean when he says that "Madison's position on slavery captured the essence of what might be called 'the Virginia straddle'"?

### **Chapter 4: *The Farewell***

1. How does Benjamin Franklin's gift to George Washington symbolize how Washington was viewed by the nation? What evidence from Washington's career supports this?
2. Why did Washington decide to retire? Consider private, public, and political concerns.
3. Regarding Washington's Farewell, what was the purpose and main themes (128)? Discuss the advice he gives to America's future leaders and the three most important political issues of that time (144).
4. What was Washington's purpose/message in the Circular Letter (133), Proclamation of Neutrality (135), and the Address to the Cherokees (158)?
5. Why is Jay's Treaty considered a "landmark in the shaping of American foreign policy?" Explain the controversy/issues surrounding the treaty including the opinions of the parties, Jefferson, Madison, and the majority of Americans.
6. A rift developed between Jefferson and Washington. What were the issues surrounding the rift? How does the rift reflect a greater rift amongst the revolutionary generation (especially between Republicans and Federalists)? What impact would this have on the nation?

### **Chapter 5: *The Collaborators***

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of John Adams as a presidential candidate?
2. Why didn't Jefferson join his friend Adams in bipartisan cooperation?
3. How did Adams respond to the XYZ Affair?
4. Why did Adams negotiate a diplomatic end to the Quasi-War with France which he knew would alienate him from his own political party?
5. What was the primary function of the collaboration between Jefferson and Madison? What was their response to the Alien and Sedition Acts?

### **Chapter 6: *The Friendship***

1. What was the significance of the "midnight judges?"
2. What were Jefferson's misguided propositions about European affairs?
3. What does the correspondence between Adams and Jefferson reveal about their different views of government?
4. How did the dialogue, as it unfolded from 1812 to 1826, illuminate issues critical to the early republic?