

# TAKING NOTES IN APUSH

APUSH represents a unique challenge in that there are so many facts/events/people/trends mentioned in the textbook. The key to success is determining which facts are most important and putting them into their proper context. Taking detailed notes while reading *A People and A Nation* will help you make sense and process the dense amount of information that is covered in the book.

These notes are for you. From time to time, I may grade them as an assignment (Chapters 2&3 will be assigned for a grade) but for the most part they serve as a reference for you. While I strongly suggest taking then using Cornell style notes, you are free to choose a format that you are most comfortable with. All notes must be **HANDWRITTEN**. Your chapter notes can be used on every chapter quiz as long as they are in your own writing.

## Suggestions:

1. Organize your notes by section headings, this will help to keep your terms within their proper context.
2. Define each key term you come across (I always provide a list of terms for you). Things to consider when taking notes on the terms:
  - ✓ Page number for reference
  - ✓ Definition
  - ✓ Background
  - ✓ How and/or why did this happen?
  - ✓ How does this relate to something else? Make a connection.
  - ✓ How is this significant to American history?
3. Define any words in your notes that you come across and don't understand.
4. Put questions you have in the margins to ask before or during class.
5. After each section you should have a brief section summary. To help you write this summary, ask yourself: "What was the main idea of this section?"
6. Notes are a condensed version of the chapter, remember: quality over quantity
7. Don't get discouraged, there is a learning curve when taking notes with a college textbook, but be confident that in time you will be thinking like a historian!
8. Look at the first two terms I completed for you on the Chapter 2 Terms list. 😊