

6 Benefits of Study Groups

Among the top three recommendations from outgoing APUSH students year after year... is STUDY BUDDIES! (the other two are #1: READ and #2: AMSCO) if you have not formed a group or are not sure this strategy is right for you, please consider the benefits outlined below.

1. Procrastination Solution

When in a study group, students have to be present at a specific time, and they are not able to procrastinate (unless they skip the study group completely). **If you struggle with procrastination, a study group might just be the solution for you!** Don't forget, the APUSH exam is extremely content heavy... cramming will not work. Meeting with your group regularly will **help you ace the exam!**

2. Learn Faster

If an objective is confusing or an era overwhelming to one student... odds are another in the group will have a strong grasp on it. In a study group, instead of spending valuable time puzzling over the difficulty, you can **learn quickly by simply asking a question.** In addition, you can help your fellow students when they have difficulties understanding something that you do understand. Together, this sort of content discussion will help you **move more information into your long term memory** as well as help you **connect to the bigger picture.**

3. Get New Perspectives

If you study by yourself, you will always see your material from the same perspective *yours*. Remember that analyzing varying viewpoints for historical interpretation and analysis is extremely important in your writing... getting fresh perspectives on a topic can help you learn it more thoroughly. Study groups are the perfect places to find these new perspectives. As you listen and ask questions, you will soon start noticing a **wide variety of different viewpoint on the same idea.** For example, a group of 4 students will generate many options for an opposing view. Discussing these views will help you better understand the era as well as help you prepare for a higher level analysis of the objective. This will force you to think more about your position and will, therefore, develop your critical thinking skills while helping you study and move **more content to long term memory.**

4. Learn New Study Skills

Two... Three...Four... or more “heads are better than one!” By joining a study group, you will have opportunity to observe a wide variety of study methods in action. After considering the pros and cons, you can improve your own study regimen by incorporating the best methods with your own. In addition, you can help your other study members improve by sharing your favorite study tricks also. **Study group will also help you incorporate many different learning methods such as linguistic, auditory, visual, and kinesthetic... all the more powerful at helping you master the content and prepare for the exam!**

5. Breaks The Monotony

Studying alone, especially for long periods of time, can become a monotonous, brain-numbing activity. If you are easily distracted or find yourself thinking, “what did I just read?” or “What do I need to know?” a study group can really help. Because of the social aspect of a study group, **you will always have someone to discuss the topic with when you start struggling or find the topic tedious.** Although study groups may still experience distractions, **a motivated group will redirect and keep learning on target.**

6. Fill In Learning Gaps

By comparing notes, guides, and activities with other students, you can evaluate your own understanding, correct errors, and get ideas for better historical thinking skills. The collaborative aspect of study groups is extremely conducive to skill development as well as content learning. Remember... the content is immense... collaborate and broaden your knowledge and understanding!

One final thought...

When building your group, remember that all groups are not created equal.
I encourage you to embrace anyone who wants to participate,
but do not allow the chemistry of your group to become unproductive.

