

# SIMPLE STEPS FOR SUCCESS IN APUSH

## 1. Set goals:

What are your goals for the class?

-what is the reason you are taking APUSH?

-what are the rewards?

-what grade do you want to earn?

-what score do you want to earn on the AP exam?

Keep goals in mind and let them propel you each week. Write your goals down and put them in your folder, in your book, on your desk. Remind yourself along the way why are you here.

## 2. Know your style:

What kind of learner are you? Auditory? Visual? Tactile?

Know your style and support your learning by seeking out activities that work best for you.

You can find out your style by completing the inventory at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/bxb11/LSI/LSI.htm>

## 3. READ:

Reading is so important for this class. Students who avoid reading rarely pass the AP exam. In student exit interviews, most students report "I wish I had read more." But, it's not just taking time to read... it's reading to learn. Make sure you are learning as you read. Take notes as you read. When you finish a paragraph ask yourself, "what did I just learn?" One excellent reading strategy is the SQ3R method. Read about it at <http://studygs.net/texred2.htm>

## 4. Study Effectively:

If you study for a quiz or test... and receive a low grade...consider your study methods.

Why was my studying ineffective?

-how long did I study?

-did I cram at the last minute?

-what time of day/night was it?

-was the TV on?

-was I nurturing my learning style?

-did I take any breaks?

-did something distract me or interrupt me?

Make some changes based on your self-analysis... and seek out other methods and try them until you find the method that works best for you. Don't continue to study the same way thinking your results will change. Seek out study ideas from friends, parents, teachers, or the on the net like <http://studygs.net/shared/testing.htm>.

An note on cramming: Cramming *is* studying... but cramming is *the worst* study method. Your brain needs time to sort through and organize information. When you cram, your brain is limited on what it can organize. Without time to organize (which happens mostly while you sleep), you will struggle to access the information and you'll likely forget it before the next text. It is really important that you study in short sessions along the way. Try studying in 15 minute sessions. Take a 5 minute break in between each.

### Other methods that have helped APUSH students in the past

Form a **study group**. Working with peers from class or from other classes/teachers is a valuable method of studying and reviewing (as long as students don't just "divide and conquer." Remember, there is a difference between "doing" and "learning!")

Listen to **podcast lectures** and **Hippocampus reviews**. Visual and audio reviews when added to the more traditional linguistic studying methods boost the brain's ability to organize and retain information.

Podcasts for each chapter of *American Pageant*

<http://college.cengage.com/history/lecturepoints/index.html>

Hippocampus reviews

<http://www.hippocampus.org/AP%20US%20History%20I>

Answer **practice questions** to assess your own learning.

Practice questions for each chapter of *American Pageant*

[http://college.cengage.com/history/us/kennedy/am\\_pageant/12e/students/ace/index.html](http://college.cengage.com/history/us/kennedy/am_pageant/12e/students/ace/index.html)

Practice questions for each created by Ms. Pojer for each major APUSH topic

<http://www.historyteacher.net/USQuizMainPage.htm>

## 5. Learn from your mistakes:

After you take quizzes and tests... take time to go over your test and learn from your mistakes.

What was the correct answer?

Why did I answer that question incorrectly?

Taking time to analyze your mistakes will help you rise to the top of the class!