**KEYS TO SUCCESS IN AP U.S. HISTORY**

1. Keep up to date with all reading assignments and complete the Chapter Reading Guides/Essential Questions. When you fall behind it becomes difficult to catch up.

2. Highlight (or sticky-note) important concepts and facts in your textbooks.

3. Become an active reader.  Ask yourself questions as you read and predict what is likely to happen next.  Make inferences.  That is, “read between the lines” and try to ascertain the larger purpose the author has in presenting this material.

4. Use your time period key concepts to put the textbook information in context. Pay attention to the thematic questions below each concept.

5. Do more than memorize what things are.  Understand information as a cause and effect of a broader trend or movement.  You should always seek to understand the connections between isolated bits of information and understand how and why they are part of a bigger picture. Relate the subject matter to the 7 APUSH themes.

6. Practice mastery of contextualization, thesis development, and proving your thesis in essays. The free response questions (LEQ, DBQ, SAQ) make up ¾’s of the Exam.

7. Begin studying for tests and quizzes early.  The volume of material makes it difficult to adequately prepare for assessments on the night before.

8. Pay attention in class and take part in discussions! Ask questions if you are confused or lacking sufficient understanding. What you get out of the class is determined by what you put into it!

9. Use the websites or videos sent on Schoology/Edmodo for further instruction. Use any of the helpful supplemental websites that offer assistance in mastering the material such as the Kaplan, Kahn Academy, Fiveable, APUSH Review, ALBERT, Tom Richey websites to gain practice and greater preparation in mastering the subject matter and the Free Response (SAQ, LEQ, DBQ) writing skills. Find your own sources on the web to reinforce your mastery.

10. Take advantage of optional (extra) assignments to strengthen areas of weakness.