

Recommendations for improving grades in AP World History.

Minor Grade Category (Classwork/homework/reading quiz):

1. Complete assignments completely and accurately, and submit them on time.

2. Reading notes:

a. Complete the reading notes in a timely manner. Slow down and read the textbook. Take breaks to allow time to summarize the learned content before continuing. (summarizing helps put this information into long term memory).

b. Design a schedule that is appropriate.

c. Struggling with reading all of this content? The best way to increase your reading score is to read. The more you practice this, the easier this gets. Take time this semester to increase your reading score. You get to keep this skill forever--helping you in future classes as long as you continue to sharpen this skill.

d. Include as much information as possible with each topic. Expand your notes to include the five themes of AP World History (found in your course syllabus and listed below). Writing is linked to long term memory. Writing more will help students increase their content mastery and be better prepared for the quiz, test, exam, and AP Exam.

The Five Themes of AP World History

Theme 1: Interaction between Humans and Environment: Technology, Patterns of settlement, Demography and disease, and Migration.

Theme 2: Development and interaction of Cultures: Belief systems, Philosophies and ideologies, Religions, Science and technology, The arts of architecture.

Theme 3: State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict: Political structures and forms of governance, Empires, Nations and nationalism, Revolts and revolutions, Regional, trans-regional, and global structures and organizations.

Theme 4: Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems: Agricultural and pastoral production, Trade and commerce, Labor Systems, Industrialization, Capitalism and Socialism.

Theme 5: Development and Transformation of Social Structures: Gender roles and relations, Family and kinship, Racial and ethnic constructions, Social and economic classes.

3. Reading quiz: complete the reading notes with the recommendations listed above. All reading quizzes are open note. The more information that is present, the better chances you have in this assessment. Hint: people that perform better on the reading quiz hardly use their notes for their reading quiz because they have written so much down, that they put a lot of information into long term memory. If you are struggling at this point, you need to spend more time writing! Writing is what helps put this content into long term memory.

Major Grade Category (Test/Exam):

1. Complete the reading notes in a timely manner. Slow down and read the textbook. Take breaks to allow time to summarize the learned content before continuing. (summarizing helps put this information into long term memory).
2. Create flash cards to help study. Consider major turning events, people, empires, themes, and dates. Write the topic on the front, and a brief description on the back. Find someone to help quiz with you. (remember, writing puts ideas into long term memory).
3. Create a collaborative study group. Split up the flash cards with everyone and help each other succeed by quizzing each other. Meet at a local restaurant or coffee shop and create a fun learning environment to help everyone succeed. If you find some way to make this fun, you will get more out of learning. We study history to understand where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. This is not a time to "memorize and forget" but rather to gain a deeper understanding of how things around us came to be the way they are today.
4. Design a study schedule that is appropriate.
5. Get enough rest and eat a well balanced meal before completing a test or exam. Do not stay up all night stressing about the test--it is not good for you, your teacher, your parents (legal guardians, etc...) :)