

[tmahoney@nUSD.org](mailto:tmahoney@nUSD.org)

[www.mahoneyhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.mahoneyhistory.wordpress.com)

**Step One:** Read chapter one of Howard Zinn’s book “A People’s History of the United States”

\*\*A free pdf of the book can be found here or you can purchase a copy of the paperback. We will be reading about half of the book over the course of the year, so I recommend purchasing it so you don’t have to read it all on a screen. <http://www.historyisaweapon.com/zinnapeopleshistory.html>

-Takes notes on this chapter and be able to identify the main point that Howard Zinn is trying to convey and what his point of view is. How does his version of Columbus differ than what is taught in elementary school? How does Zinn treat the story of Columbus and the Spanish? What does he choose to focus on and highlight? Did you find anything you really agreed or disagreed with?

**Step Two:** Read pages 5-20 of Larry Schweikart’s book “A Patriot’s History of the United States”

\*\*A free pdf of the book can be found here. You can purchase this book if you want to, but we will only use it sparingly this year, so I recommend just using this free pdf.

<http://ready4itall.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/A-Patriots-History-of-the-US-Ytsewolf.pdf>

-Takes notes on these pages and identify what Larry Schweikart’s point of view is. How does he treat the story of Columbus and the Spanish in the New World? What examples does he use to try and make his point? What does he choose to focus on primarily in his telling of this part of history? Did you find anything you really agreed or disagreed with?

**Step Three:** Answer the following prompt in a 2-3 page essay

“Compare and contrast the perspectives of Howard Zinn and Larry Schweikart on the topic of Spanish exploration in the New World. How does each man treat the topic and what examples and evidence do they utilize to support their point of view?”

Responses should have a clear and defensible claim with organizational categories that set up what the essay will be about. The body of the essay should contain examples and analysis that support that claim. No conclusion is needed.

Once you feel you have fully answered the prompt, I would like you to add one or two paragraphs that discuss which author’s point of view and approach to the topic of Spanish exploration in the New World you personally agree with and like more. Based on the short sample you have read, which book do you think is the better choice to use in an AP US History class? Be sure to explain why.

**\*This is due on the first day of school and I will not accept late summer assignments.\***