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Advanced Placement-United States History, Mr. Ferri, Instructor

Writing Assignment – Due September 13, 2010

Directions: Read the Declaration of Independence. Choose and complete one of the following questions:

- 1. Analyze the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence. Evaluate to what extent the Declaration is a well written and influential historical work that has had a lasting effect on global politics or social change.**
- 2. It has been said that the Declaration of Independence was an emotional plea by a prosecuting attorney rather than a reasonable summation by the judge. Evaluate the validity of this statement by analyzing the document.**

Write a well organized essay that includes:

- An introduction with a thesis statement (your evaluation)**
- Several paragraphs detailing the criteria for your evaluation and evidence supporting your thesis.**
- A conclusion summarizing your argument.**

Summer Reading and Assignment

Book 1

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph Ellis

Why is John Adams not on Mount Rushmore or U.S. currency like Washington and Jefferson?

How, with all his battlefield setbacks, has Washington retained his reputation as a great general?

Was Aaron Burr a bad guy? Explain.

Book 2

A Peoples History of the United States 1492-Present by Howard Zinn – Read pages 1 to 148

What role did disease and forced labor (including slavery) play in the early settlement of America?

Is the view of the Spanish and Portuguese as especially harsh conquerors and exploiters valid-or is this image just another version of the English “black legend” concerning the Spanish role in the Americas?