



**How to thrive in**

# **History**

**in Mrs. Angie's  
class**

AH...History!!! One of my favorite subjects (if not my absolute favorite)! ...not the dates and times and names, but the stories of the dates and times and names.

WOW! What better way to understand why we're where we are than to understand where we came from! Every year we study American history to some extent, but the majority of emphasis is placed on ancient world history or modern world history, alternating back and forth from year to year. In Mrs. Angie's class, history is combined with geography so that as you look at a map, the history of that place as well as that of the surrounding areas jumps out at you. Grades will be based on participation, homework, and tests.

First of all, **participation** in the discussion is VITAL!!! We will have discussions 2-3 times weekly and will usually cover information that is not in the book as we relate the text to other historical events or even current events. Lectures will link the text to the geographical locations of those events. We will also discuss who the beliefs of those countries, nations, cities and people affected their actions. So how do you participate? First, take notes. Outline the important points of the discussion. Next, ask and answer questions. Discussions are not a time to sit back and soak in information, but to take a ride with your teacher through the material he or she is teaching. When it doesn't make sense, raise your hand - and try to understand. Try to think about the ideas on your own and relate them to other things you're familiar with, then ask your teacher if you're right.

The **homework** will be much like the homework of science - here's how to succeed:

1. Questions which are open-ended are questions that can be answered more than one way. (For example: "Explain how...?" or "Describe why...?")

- or "Why do you think...?") ALL open-ended questions must be answered in clear, useful, and complete sentences. A sentence like "The answer is that I think he was smart." is a bad sentence. A better sentence would be "It seems like Benjamin Franklin experimented with electricity because he was a curious man and enjoyed learning." IF, however, the sentence is not open-ended (if it has only a one-word answer or a definition that is taken directly out of the book), simply answer the question without re-stating the question.
2. ALL answers MUST include the page number where the answer was found. It may seem like a lot of work, but if you're looking up the answer, you're already on the page anyway. You might as well just write the extra 2 or 3 numbers at the end of your answer.
  3. Write in neat, 5th/6th grade penmanship. Cursive is not required, but all writing must be neat and legible. If I can't read it, I can't grade it.
  4. ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE, ORGANIZE. Sometimes charts will need to be copied onto your paper or pictures will need to be drawn. Be sure you organize your paper neatly - don't try to fit too much onto one page. This includes putting the heading of the sections in clear, obvious places ("Checkpoint 2.2", then later down the page "Checkpoint 2.3").
  5. Don't forget the heading! Four lines: Name, Subject, Assignment, Date

The **tests** will be a mix of short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions. One will be given at the end of each chapter, so test dates will depend on how quickly we move through the material. *But* you can take a good guess about when the tests will be by how far into a chapter we are and how long you think it will take to get to the end. Test will usually be given pretty quickly after the chapter ends, which is why I always recommend that students start preparing for tests as we cover the material. (See my [test taking skills](#) section)

Memory tests will also be given each week on geography or historical documents.