

# 9TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

This document is intended to assist in discussions with rising 9th graders to help them choose between AP US History and On-Level US History for their Social Studies course.

## AP US History

Deep historical study of complex themes, historical debates, and detailed case studies in US History from 1400's-present

Accelerated pace and focus on college-level historical reasoning skills such as continuity and change over time

Emphasis on complex writing & rich source interpretation

Emphasize major themes in US History

Aim to develop critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation skills

Prepare students for civic engagement

Broader overview of US History from 1780s to present

Focuses on developing general historical thinking skills like summarization, interpretation, and causation

Includes scaffolded sources for analysis and interpretation

## On-Level US History

Students should consider AP US History (APUSH) if they either demonstrate current readiness or potential readiness, as described below:

### Who is APUSH-Ready?

#### STUDENTS WHO:

- are willing to take on the challenge of college-level work
- have an interest in the content
- are willing to actively participate in complex discussions and ask questions
- are prepared to engage in work outside of class, including review of notes, practice tests, and reading

- demonstrate complex thinking about the world around them
- have great time management and established note-taking and study habits
- are passionate about historical study
- have demonstrated advanced reading comprehension and critical thinking skills
- demonstrate advanced writing abilities

### Who has APUSH-Potential?

#### STUDENTS WHO:

- are adaptable to different kinds of academic tasks
- are teachable or coachable
- can persevere through challenges and demonstrate growth mindset
- are curious about why things happen
- are open to collaboration and feedback
- have demonstrated on or above-grade level reading skills
- can communicate clearly in writing with potential for growing complexity