

Rising Eleventh Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Please read the two PDF files (Summer10_History_Readings Part 1 and 2), which are chapters from two books about American history. One is from *A People's History of The American Revolution: How Common People Shaped the Fight for Independence* by Ray Raphael [if you want to get the whole book, it is readily available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL; Harper Perennial (June 18, 2002); **ISBN-13:** 978-0060004408]. The other is from *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York* by Robert A. Caro [if you want to get the whole book, it is readily available at Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, and at the NYPL; Vintage; First Edition edition (July 12, 1975); **ISBN-13:** 978-0394720241].

The purpose of these readings is to offer you two examples of strong historical writing that are quite different. They examine some of the major themes in U.S. history that we'll study next year. More significantly, they provide you with models of research and writing: how to structure an argument; how to use evidence to support an assertion; what types of sources to use; and how to write in a compelling manner. They will establish a common reference for discussion in September about one of the major goals of 11th grade history: how to become a great researcher and writer about specific topics and issues in American history.

You will be asked to do some writing about the summer reading in the fall. So, please read carefully. And, use strategies that successful readers use. Underline key passages. Take notes on big ideas or great examples in either a notebook or on post-its. Bring the book and your notes to history class on the first day of history class in the fall.

Here are some questions to guide your reading:

- 1) How are these examples of good historical writing? Offer as much specific evidence from the texts as you can!
- 2) Identify the kinds of evidence that each historian uses, and then compare and contrast them. [There are *end notes* for each reading; check the *end* of the PDF!]
- 3) What are some of the differences you note in these two examples of historical writing?
- 4) What are some of the key themes and ideas in each reading?