**Summer Assignment: AP African American Studies – Organizing Your 3-Ring Binder**

**Teacher : Mr. Myers**

**Objective:**
This assignment is designed to help you prepare for the academic year by organizing your 3-ring binder for AP African American Studies. This binder will serve as a key tool throughout the course, enabling you to effectively organize your notes, assignments, projects, and reflections. Properly setting up your binder now will ensure that you are ready for the course’s comprehensive curriculum, which spans a variety of topics related to the history, culture, and experiences of African Americans.

**Instructions:**
You will be required to create a **three-ring binder** with specific sections, each corresponding to different units in the AP African American Studies curriculum. This organizational tool will help you keep track of assignments, readings, and important class discussions.

Follow the instructions carefully, and be sure to use dividers to clearly label each section.

**Materials Needed:**

1. A **3-ring binder** (at least 2-3 inches in size)
2. **Dividers** (at least 7-8 tabs)
3. **Notebook paper** (lined and loose-leaf)
4. **Pockets or folders** for handouts and assignments
5. **Highlighters** and pens for note-taking
6. **Index cards** (optional for creating study aids)

**Step 1: Set Up Your Binder**

Create the following sections in your binder. Label each section clearly on the tab dividers:

**Section 1: Unit 1 – African Roots and the Slave Trade**

* **Focus:** This unit explores the origins of African American history, tracing the roots of African civilizations and cultures before the transatlantic slave trade. We will study the geography of Africa, the history of early African empires, and the impacts of European colonization and the Atlantic Slave Trade.
* **Contents:**
	+ Maps of Africa, highlighting key regions and slave trade routes
	+ Notes on the early history of African civilizations (e.g., Mali Empire, Kingdom of Kongo)
	+ Readings on the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its effects on African societies
	+ Vocabulary terms (e.g., chattel slavery, Middle Passage, diaspora)
	+ Reflection journal on the importance of African cultural retention

**Section 2: Unit 2 – Slavery in the Americas**

* **Focus:** This unit examines the development of slavery in the Americas, emphasizing how slavery shaped African American life in the colonies. We will explore the economic, social, and cultural impacts of slavery on both African slaves and their descendants.
* **Contents:**
	+ Notes on the institution of slavery in the American colonies
	+ Primary source documents (e.g., slave narratives, laws, abolitionist writings)
	+ Charts/diagrams of the triangular trade
	+ Key terms and concepts (e.g., plantation system, resistance, abolition)
	+ Assignments discussing the lived experiences of enslaved Africans

**Section 3: Unit 3 – The Civil War and Reconstruction**

* **Focus:** This unit explores the Civil War, its causes, and its effects on African Americans. We will also cover the Reconstruction period that followed, examining the changes and challenges African Americans faced in the post-war South.
* **Contents:**
	+ Timeline of key events leading to and following the Civil War (1861-1877)
	+ Important figures (e.g., Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln)
	+ The Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments
	+ Reflection paper on the gains and setbacks during Reconstruction
	+ Primary source documents (e.g., the Freedmen’s Bureau reports, Thaddeus Stevens' speeches)

**Section 4: Unit 4 – The Harlem Renaissance and Early 20th Century Movements**

* **Focus:** This unit covers the Harlem Renaissance and the social, cultural, and political movements of the early 20th century. It examines the artistic, literary, and intellectual contributions of African Americans during this period, as well as the challenges they faced in the post-World War I era.
* **Contents:**
	+ Biographies of key figures (e.g., Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, W.E.B. Du Bois)
	+ Summary of major works (e.g., "The Souls of Black Folk," "Their Eyes Were Watching God")
	+ Analysis of the impact of jazz, blues, and other cultural innovations
	+ Reflection paper on the significance of the Harlem Renaissance in African American identity
	+ Notes on the rise of racial pride movements (e.g., the NAACP, Marcus Garvey’s UNIA)

**Section 5: Unit 5 – Civil Rights and Black Power Movements**

* **Focus:** This unit examines the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s and the Black Power Movement that followed. We will study the major events, figures, and ideologies that defined African American activism during these periods.
* **Contents:**
	+ Notes on key events (e.g., Brown v. Board of Education, the March on Washington, the Voting Rights Act)
	+ Profiles of significant figures (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Rosa Parks)
	+ Discussion of the philosophies of nonviolence vs. Black Power
	+ Primary sources from speeches, protests, and writings
	+ Vocabulary terms (e.g., "freedom now," "Black Panther Party," "affirmative action")

**Section 6: Unit 6 – Modern African American Life and Culture**

* **Focus:** This unit will look at the evolution of African American life and culture in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including the rise of hip-hop culture, the influence of African Americans in politics, and the continued struggles for equality.
* **Contents:**
	+ Contemporary figures in politics, art, and activism (e.g., Barack Obama, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Beyoncé)
	+ Analysis of African American literature and arts in the 21st century
	+ Discussion of issues facing modern African Americans (e.g., mass incarceration, racial inequality, Black Lives Matter)
	+ Reflection on the role of African American culture in global movements

**Section 7: Unit 7 – Major Themes in African American Studies**

* **Focus:** This section will serve as a place to collect and synthesize major themes and theories in African American Studies, including African American identity, resistance, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice.
* **Contents:**
	+ Theoretical frameworks and key concepts in African American Studies (e.g., intersectionality, post-colonialism, critical race theory)
	+ Synthesis papers or essays on overarching themes in African American history and culture
	+ Notes from guest lectures or documentaries viewed during the course
	+ Major assignments or projects (e.g., research paper on African American history)

**Step 2: Organize Your Binder**

1. **Use dividers** for each unit and section. Make sure each section is clearly labeled and contains only relevant materials.
2. **Take notes in a structured format** that is easy to read and review. Use headings, bullet points, and highlighters to make your notes organized.
3. **Use pockets** or folders for handouts, returned assignments, and other papers that don’t fit into the notebook.
4. **Add a “Reflection” section** at the end of your binder to jot down your thoughts after each unit. Consider how the material we study connects to current events and your personal experiences.

**Step 3: Create Your First Reflection Paper**

At the end of the summer, write a **1-2 page reflection** on the significance of African American history in the context of the 21st century. Consider questions such as:

* What do you think is the most important lesson to learn from African American history?
* How do you see the legacy of African American struggle and triumph in your life today?
* Why do you believe it’s important to study African American history, and how does it relate to broader American history?

**Grading Criteria:**

* Completion of all sections in the binder (properly labeled and organized)
* Depth of thought and quality of reflection paper
* Neatness and overall presentation of the binder
* Consistency in taking organized notes

**Submission:**
Bring your completed binder and reflection paper to class on the first day of school. Your binder will be graded for organization, completeness, and the thoughtfulness of your reflections.