

Presidents of the United States

Advanced Placement U.S. History Research Project

Assignment Outline

Each student will be assigned a “Presidential Group”. Each group is designed to cover 8 years of Presidents. Some may be required to discuss 3 different Presidents during an 8-year period, while others may only have to discuss ONE President.

Whatever the case, you must do the following for your period:

1. Select and show your instructor a book you intend to use on the project. Presidential books contain the narrative that ties the story together. Additionally, they often contain specific information IN CONTEXT. You are required to use a book.
2. Discuss Election information –
 - a. Nominations for both candidates (and if there is a 3rd candidate include them as well) – what led to the nomination of candidates
 - b. Issues highlighted by candidates in the general election
 - c. Turning points in the general election
 - d. Electoral Results
3. Important Legislation and Policy – some topics you MAY want to research (but are not necessarily required)
 - a. Important laws passed by Congress and signed by the President
 - b. Important laws passed by Congress and vetoed by the President
 - c. Important executive orders by the President
 - d. Important POLICY initiatives supported by the President that were not adopted by Congress (Clinton's Health Care, Truman's Fair Deal)
 - e. Important appointments (Supreme Court, cabinet) that affected policy of the United States
 - f. Important pardons
 - g. Important Supreme Court decisions.
 - h. Important speeches (inaugural, State of the Union, etc.)
4. Important Foreign Policy
 - a. Pronouncements - for example, the Monroe Doctrine, the Truman Doctrine...anything that guides a foreign policy.
 - b. Treaties - treaties don't always end wars...they may be an agreement between two countries on a wide variety of foreign policy issues.
 - c. Foreign Economic Policy - trade agreements, tariffs, economic embargoes (these may sometimes be referred to as executive agreements)
 - d. Interventions - sometimes the U.S. intervenes in crises - either where their direct interests are at stake or where their perceived interests are at stake. They may commit troops or they may just try to arbitrate a disagreement (Russo-Japanese, Camp David Accords).
 - e. Conflicts - actual troops are involved but outside of Congressional approval.
 - f. War - declared by Congress, involving U.S. troops.
5. Historical events that occurred during the Presidency – events often happen during a President’s term that weren’t necessarily caused by the President, but have become associated with that period (for example, the Great Depression is associated with Franklin D. Roosevelt). This section should convey significant cultural events of the time period associated with your President(s). Include at least TEN significant historical events. **POWERPOINT ONLY**
6. What was the most significant contribution made by your President(s)? Why did you choose this contribution as most significant? **POWERPOINT ONLY**

7. Presidential Ranking Comment – use the Presidential Ranking Sheet (this has already been handed out), and comment on whether or not you feel the ranking is fair. Back up your reasoning with fact and analysis. **POWERPOINT ONLY**

Project Format

Assignment should be completed in research paper and PowerPoint form. You will need to organize your Power Point along the lines of the assignment. If you have more than one President, a chronological approach is expected. Remember the purpose is to SUMMARIZE **significant** information. Helpful ideas:

1. You must include a written research segment to cover in detail the following:
 - a. Election
 - b. Important legislation
 - c. Foreign Policy
2. For PowerPoint:
 - a) Your PPT should follow the order of the assignment.
 - b) Include pictures – portraits, cartoons, etc. At least one picture per slide (at the same time, don't overdo it with pictures)
 - c) Neatness is important – believe it or not, there is such a thing as a sloppy Power Point.
 - d) When in doubt, ask a question.

The Presidential Assignments

1. George Washington / John Adams
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. James Madison
4. James Monroe
5. John Quincy Adams/Andrew Jackson
6. Martin Van Buren / William Henry Harrison / John Tyler
7. James Polk / Zachary Taylor / Millard Fillmore
8. Franklin Pierce / James Buchanan
9. Abraham Lincoln / Andrew Johnson
10. Ulysses S. Grant
11. Rutherford B. Hayes / James Garfield / Chester Arthur
12. Grover Cleveland
13. Benjamin Harrison / William McKinley
14. Theodore Roosevelt
15. William Howard Taft / Warren G. Harding
16. Woodrow Wilson
17. Calvin Coolidge / Herbert Hoover
18. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1938)
19. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1939-1945)
20. Harry Truman
21. Dwight D. Eisenhower
22. John F. Kennedy
23. Lyndon Johnson

24. Richard Nixon / Gerald Ford
25. Jimmy Carter
26. Ronald Reagan 1st Term
27. Ronald Reagan 2nd Term
28. George H.W. Bush
29. Bill Clinton
30. George W. Bush 1st Term
31. George W. Bush 2nd Term
32. Barack Obama

*If extra are needed the following Presidents will be split into two projects:

1. Woodrow Wilson
2. Harry Truman
3. Dwight Eisenhower
4. Bill Clinton
5. George W. Bush

*If less are needed the following Presidents will be combined:

- A. Jimmy Carter/George Bush
- B. John F. Kennedy / Lyndon Johnson
- C. Madison/Monroe

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A.P. U.S. History Research Paper – Grade Sheet

Election information (Research Paper) – important issues, turning points and election results. (20 points)

Pts. ___/20

Legislation (Research Paper) – laws passed during Presidency. Might include major vetoes or domestic policy pushed for by the President. Pts. ___/35

Pts. _____

Foreign Policy (Research Paper) – wars, conflicts, treaties, interventions, or policies directed OUTSIDE of the United States. Pts. ___/35

Pts. _____

Bibliography – is it easy to follow and formatted correctly (need to organize bibliography by topic). Does it include a variety of sources? (10 points)

Pts. _____

TOTAL RESEARCH PAPER GRADE: _____/100

Rough Draft Deductions

1. Election Information _____
2. Domestic Policy _____
3. Foreign Policy _____

Name: _____

Power Point and Presentation

A.P. U.S. History Grade Sheet

*Remember, this grade will appear on your 4th QUARTER GRADE:

Layout and Presentation – is your project organized, complete and easy to follow. Fonts, colors and neatness are important parts of this category. The number and appropriateness of your pictures also falls into this category. _____/15

Major Events of Presidency _____/5

Significant Contribution _____/5

Presentation followed the Power Point: _____/5

Presentation contained accurate detail which Enhanced Power Point outline _____/15

Time Limits - didn't have to rush certain parts to get through the entire presentation _____/5

TOTAL POWER POINT AND PRESENTATION GRADE _____/50