

APUSH Summer Reading Assignment 2021

To complete this assignment, you must purchase and read [The Thirteen American Arguments](#) by Howard Fineman (Random House, 2009) ISBN 978-0-8129-7635-9

Each chapter of Fineman's book explores an ongoing American argument, drawing on both contemporary (well, in 2008 or so) and historical examples.

Your assignment is to use the attached template to get a sense of each debate. Use copy and paste to make 13 copies of the template. Delete the on-page instructions, then fill out the template for each chapter as best you can. It isn't necessary to go into exhaustive detail – a few reasonably complete bullet points should do. On the other hand, you should write enough down that you'll be able to do well on the test you will take on this reading on the first day of class. Aim to keep each argument's notes on a single page.

The test will be open note. I will look at the notes to make sure you haven't blindly copied from a classmate's work. Of the 13 main arguments, I will give you some number (x , to be determined by my whim) as options to discuss on the test. Of that number x , you will choose some portion y to complete. So it is theoretically possible to read fewer than the 13 chapters and still do ok on the test, but it depends on how lucky you feel. Also, there will be questions on the introduction and conclusion, so don't skip those either.

Enjoy!

Thirteen American Arguments by Howard Fineman (2009)

Argument:

(In this section, rephrase the argument as clearly and directly as you can. Avoid merely repeating the chapter title such as “Who Is An American?” Instead, see if you can elaborate a bit more what the main point of contention is.)

Spectrum:

*The arguments often take place on a spectrum where one set of values, positions, and policies clusters toward one side and another set clusters toward the other side, possibly with some middle ground in between. Use the space **above** this line to illustrate the different positions Americans have taken with regard to this argument.*

Examples:

*(In each chapter, Fineman uses both current-day (well, in the last 10 years or so) and historical examples to illustrate the contours of the argument he wants to highlight. Use the space **below** the line to list out some examples of the positions he mentions. Try to keep the examples roughly chronological. You don't have to list every example, just the ones you think are most important.)*

Finally:

Just for fun, make a mark on the spectrum to indicate where you think you might fall on this argument. This is just tentative and not a forever pledge. At the very bottom of each page, quickly note:

- 1. The position on this argument you find most persuasive and a few words on why.*
- 2. The position on this argument you find most unsettling and a few words on why.*