

Basic US History
Classroom Grading System
2013-14

“How much is this worth?”

The three different categories of work in Basic US History are Homework, Quizzes, and Tests or Projects. When calculating your overall grade in the class, Homework is worth 30%, quizzes are worth 30%, tests and projects are worth 30%, and class participation is worth 10%. Although the categories are all weighted the same, because there are more homework assignments, each test or quiz counts more than a homework assignment. For example, if Sally earned an A average on her homework assignments, a B average on her quizzes, a C average on her tests, and a B for class participation, her quarter grade would be as follows:

| Type of Work | Assignment Score | Grade Weight | Points Earned |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Homework | 95 | 30% | 28.5 |
| Quizzes | 84 | 30% | 25.2 |
| Tests/Projects | 74 | 30% | 22.2 |
| Class Participation | 84 | 10% | 8.4 |
| | | Total | 84.3 |

“Do I have to talk in class?”

Class participation is *really important*, not only because it's 10% of your overall grade, but also because it helps you to work together with your classmates and better understand the information we're learning in class. And hopefully it will be fun!

A Exceeds the standards

This student always participates in class by asking and answering questions, working with and actively listening to their classmates, and being an overall leader within the classroom. These activities show how much the student enjoys learning and wants to learn more. This student is always well prepared and ready to contribute to the class because they have thoughtfully completed all of their work.

B Meets the standards

This student participates in class by asking and answering questions and working with and listening to their classmates. This student is usually well prepared and ready to contribute to the class because they have thoughtfully completed their work. Though never causing disruption to the class, this student does not always make the most out of our class time each and every day.

C Partially meets the standards

This student sometimes participates in class by asking and answering questions and usually works with and listens to their classmates. This student usually completes assignments and is prepared to answer questions when called upon. They may need occasional reminders to stay on task, make the most of our class time, and to increase their level of commitment to the course.

D Does not meet the standards

This student rarely takes an active role in their own learning. They often do not participate and rarely share ideas or ask questions. This student displays poor listening skills, and they may be intolerant of the opinions of others. As a result of being unprepared for or uninvolved in class, this student often refuses to offer ideas even when called upon. This student is rarely an asset to the overall progress of the class.

F 0 Points Does not qualify

This student is frequently absent from class and therefore cannot meet the class participation minimum standards.

“How much homework will I have?”

Expect to have homework every class. It is sometimes reviewed, sometimes used to take the in-class quiz, and sometimes collected; sometimes it is not. **Just do it!**

“Can I turn homework in late?”

Homework is due the class after it is assigned, unless otherwise noted. No late homework is accepted. If you are absent, **the day you come back to school** you must hand in the homework that was due, pick up any assigned work, and make arrangements to make up any missed assessments. I am in my room before and after school and during snack break and first lunch each day.

“What about tests?”

At the end of each unit you will have the choice of taking a comprehensive exam **OR** completing a project and a short multiple choice exam. You will be given the study guide and project options several days in advance in order for you to make an informed decision on which type of assessment to complete. Projects must be complete and ready to hand in on the day of the exam or you must take the comprehensive exam. If you earn a failing grade on an assessment you may retake the exam or fix your project within a week after it is handed back. If the score on your retake is higher than your first score but not passing, you will earn the higher of the two scores. If your retake score is a 60 or above, you will earn a passing grade of a 60. For example, if you fail a comprehensive exam with a 40 and your retake score is a 55, you will earn a 55. If your retake score is a 99, you will earn a 60.

“Do I have to keep my work?”

At random intervals throughout the quarter I will ask you to organize your handouts, worksheets, projects, etc, and take an in-class quiz covering this work. At the end of the quarter I will ask you to pick out the work you’re most proud of and the work you’d like to redo, and show your entire portfolio of work to your parents/guardians for feedback.

“Can I do extra credit?”

You will have the option of completing two extra credit options per quarter. You must earn an A on the report in order for it to count and you may only complete extra credit if you have completed all other coursework (if you have any incomplete homework you must complete it before completing any extra credit assignments). The descriptions of the extra credit options are as follows:

Option #1: Current Events

1. Read a current newspaper or magazine article of your choice that has been approved by me that relates to the subject matter we are studying this quarter.
2. Identify the following about the article:
 - > What is the title and who are the main people or events this article discusses?
 - > What is the general story line of the article?
 - > What biases are present in the article?
 - > Why is this information important to know?
 - > What is your overall opinion of the subject matter of the article?
3. Have someone proofread a rough draft of your assignment and make corrections. They should sign the bottom of the rough draft so that I know who did the proofreading.
4. Your computer-processed report must be written in paragraph form (do not just answer the questions stated above) with correct spelling and grammar.

Option #2: Couch Potato Workout

Use the following questions to give a detailed description of your reaction to a film.

1. Watch a film of your choice approved by me* that relates to the subject matter we are studying this quarter.
2. Identify the following about the film:
 - > What is the title and who are the main characters and the actors who portray them?
 - > What is the general story line of the film?
 - > What historical accuracies and inaccuracies are depicted in this film?
 - > Why is this information important to know?
 - > What is your overall opinion of the film?
3. Have someone proofread a rough draft of your assignment and make corrections. They should sign the bottom of the rough draft so that I know who did the proofreading.
4. Your computer-processed report must be written in paragraph form (do not just answer the questions stated above) with correct spelling and grammar.