

United States History & Government (Honors)
Summer Assignment: 2011
Mr. Matute

“We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others, the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men’s labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name-liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names-*liberty and tyranny.*”

-Abraham Lincoln, 1864

Part of the U.S. History Honors course is understanding different viewpoints. We will discuss certain events/topics & you will be expected to not only form your own opinion, but to examine the different opinions of scholars/historians. This reading assignment will prepare you for the research paper that you will write during the Fall semester where you will evaluate different viewpoints and take a stand on an issue.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Few Americans during the Civil War could have predicted that future generations would consider Lincoln our nation’s greatest president. Biographer Stephen B. Oates, in *Abraham Lincoln: The Man Behind the Myths*, argues that Lincoln, at the time of his assassination was the most hated president in history. However, by 1948 historian Arthur Schlesinger, who began to poll experts on this subject, rated Lincoln as the nation’s best chief executive. President George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson have also done well in presidential polls that were conducted by historian Gary Maranell in 1970 and historian Steve Neal in 1982, but none as well as Abraham Lincoln. President Harry Truman himself, ranked Lincoln in the category of “great” chief executives. The summer reading selections assess Lincoln’s presidency from various perspectives. You are to do the following:

- Read Phillip Shaw Paludan’s *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln* (pages 356-362) and fill out the Reading Worksheet.
- Melvin E. Bradford’s *Remembering Who We Are: Observations of a Southern Conservative* (pages 363-371) and fill out the Reading Worksheet.

Reading Worksheet is due on the first day of class.