

# EDMUND W. GORDON



## Rising Grade 8 History 2025 Summer Homework Packet



BROOKLYN LAB  
CHARTER SCHOOL

## 8th Grade History Summer Assignment

Dear Rising 8th Graders,

I'm so excited to welcome you to 8th grade history! Starting in September, we will begin exploring this history of the United States through primary and secondary sources in order to make ***connections from the past to the present.***



In order for me to see what interests you, this summer you will need to read one current event article and connect it to one of the Themes of History listed on the following page.

Looking forward to getting to know you all better in the fall!



**TASK:** Read and respond to ONE current event article written over the summer from credible news sources.

### **PART I – READING**

Locate and read **ONE** current event article that connects to one of the Reasons for Studying listed in the resources. The articles and events you choose must take place in the United States, should be current and written between the dates of June 1st - August 26th, 2023. All articles should be printed or cut out from their sources and attached to the written assignment.

#### **CREDIBLE NEWS SOURCES**

Real newspapers and magazines may be used – make sure it's a news article, not an opinion piece (or editorial)

Magazines	Newspapers	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newsweek <a href="http://www.newsweek.com">www.newsweek.com</a></li><li>• Time Magazine <a href="http://www.time.com">www.time.com</a></li><li>• The New Yorker <a href="http://www.newyorker.com">www.newyorker.com</a></li><li>• Politico <a href="http://www.politico.com">www.politico.com</a></li><li>• USA Today <a href="http://www.usetoday.com">www.usetoday.com</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The New York Times <a href="http://www.newyorktimes.com">www.newyorktimes.com</a></li><li>• Washington Post <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a></li><li>• LA Times <a href="http://www.latimes.com">www.latimes.com</a></li><li>• Wall Street Journal <a href="http://www.online.wsj.com">www.online.wsj.com</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Public Radio (NPR) <a href="http://www.npr.org">www.npr.org</a></li><li>• MSNBC <a href="http://www.msnbc.com">www.msnbc.com</a></li><li>• CNN <a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a></li><li>• PBS</li></ul>

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### **PART II – WRITING**

For each article, you will write a summary and response which will include reactions, opinions, connections and questions to the event/issue discussed in the article.

#### **Criteria for written assignments:**

- ✓ Typed or handwritten
- ✓ Three paragraphs as outlined below
- ✓ 400-500 words total

#### **Paragraph 1 - Summary**

Write a summary of the article in your own words. This summary should clearly demonstrate understanding of the material. *Who is the story about? Where does the story take place? When did this event happen? What happened?*

#### **Paragraph 2 – Reactions / Opinions**

Share your thinking around this article and the problems / issues it presents.  
*How do you feel about what is happening? Why? What is your opinion about the issue being discussed? What were you thinking about as you read the article? What were you thinking about after? Do you agree/disagree with the perspective of the writer/creator of this news item? Why or why not?*

### **Paragraph 3 - Connections and Questions**

Connections - Choose one connection to write about. Make sure you explain *HOW* this article connects with this Reason for Studying History using details to support your analysis:

- *Build Empathy for Others*- being able to understand the feelings and experiences of others, even if they are different from our own
- *Become Better and More Impactful Citizens*- Understanding the rights and responsibilities to be and active member of society
- *Learn Appreciation for Our World*- appreciating the sacrifices and hard work of individuals and groups who make our world a better place
- *Identify, Predict, and Solve Problems*- looking to the past for inspiration to predict and solve modern problems, as well as coming up with new solution

### **RUBRIC**

4- My work is submitted on time and includes all the criteria!	3- My work is submitted on time and includes most of the criteria!	2- My work was not submitted on time and may only have some of the criteria	1- I submitted my work late and it does not meet most of the criteria	0- I did not submit summer assignment work...
- Articles are attached/ included in the assignment  -Summary is in my own words and demonstrated understanding of the article  -My opinion/ reaction is explained clearly and includes a "why"  -Includes a clear connection to a theme and includes "How"	- Articles are attached/ included in the assignment  -Summary is mostly my own words and demonstrated understanding of the article  -My opinion/ reaction is explained clearly and but may be missing "why"  -Includes a connection to a theme and includes "How"	- Articles are attached/ included in the assignment  -Summary is not in my own words or do not demonstrate understanding of the article  -My opinion/ reaction is unclear or does not explain "why"  -Connection is unclear or not specified	- Articles are not attached/ included in the assignment  -Summary is not in my own words and do not demonstrate understanding of the article  -My opinion/ reaction is unclear and does not explain "why"  -Connection is unclear and not specified	-No articles submitted  -No written work submitted













