

Beacon Summer Reading: History 2008: 11th Grade

The summer reading will prepare you for themes in 11th grade history next year. There will be a writing assignment on the reading at the beginning of the school year.

Please Read Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis, with a foreword by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., W.W. Norton: New York 2004, by Robert Kennedy. ISBN 0-393-31834-0 (#13.95)

Students should be sure to get a copy of Thirteen Days by Robert Kennedy that is the same edition discussed on this sheet. Otherwise, they will not be able to complete the assignment.

Students will need to take notes on index cards for this assignment (probably a total of 20 cards). The index cards should be completed by the first day of school. Students will need the index cards to complete the assignment and will hand them in for partial completion of the assignment.

Students should first read the foreword by Schlesinger, being careful to take notes on the overview he provides and on the thesis he presents. You will be using this thesis as a guide to examining the book.

For each of the 15 chapters, students should take notes on the evidence that supports or contradicts Schlesinger's thesis, keeping in mind that the thesis is NOT Kennedy's. Be careful to take note of page numbers for information that you believe is something that you would cite in a paper.

For the Afterword by Neustadt and Allison, take two index cards' worth of information down about the issues raised by the Missile Crisis and whether or not Schlesinger's thesis is supported by the Afterword.

Finally, read the documents found at the back. On index cards, write a list of quotations from documents that support Schlesinger's thesis and a list of quotations that refute it.