

Interactive Notebook Instructions

Materials Required:

- Spiral-bound notebook, 200+ pages for U.S. & World History, 100+ pages for Government or Economics - bring this everyday & be sure to choose one with wide pages and a very tough cover!
- 2+ colors of highlighter - bring everyday!
- Pencils & erasers - bring everyday!
- Black/blue pens - bring everyday!
- Colored pens & pencils
- Glue - Elmer's is best, stick glue doesn't seem to work well

What Is An Interactive Notebook & Why Are We Doing It?

This will be an accumulation of the majority of your work in this class and something you should be proud of. The goal of the interactive notebook (INB) is to help you to become a creative, independent thinker and writer. Both the information that you take down in the form of notes and the activities you do to process that information will go in here. In addition, you will occasionally be able to use your notebooks on quizzes, so the quality of your notebook work will also help the 35% of your grade determined by exams.

Grading

These notebooks are worth 30% of your grade. They will be collected and graded thoroughly at the end of every unit (every three, four or five weeks - about six times a semester), and occasionally for surprise checks. Assignments will be checked daily, and you will know how much each is worth when it is assigned. Notebooks will be graded based on attention to detail, a thoughtful attempt at high quality work, organization and visual appeal.

What Happens If I'm Absent?

It is your responsibility to get the assignment from someone else in the class or to talk to me outside of class time. You can check the class notebook, but it won't have all the information that you need such as class notes or activities. Remember, the only thing that is okay to copy from other students are lecture notes. All work needs to be original, from your own brain.

Highlighting

Highlighting is a good study skill because it requires you to review the work you have just done and the information you have just learned. It also shows the teacher that you have actually read the assignment from beginning to end.

Notebook Readings - What do I do with all of that information?

Reading for Understanding: The Standard Process for this Class

1. **Skim the reading** - look at titles, pictures and captures. Decide what the reading is probably about.
2. **Read once through comfortably** - don't worry if you don't understand everything
3. **Read again, this time with a highlighter** (do *not* highlight if it is a school book)
4. **Read one more time** - underline most important points
5. **Write a brief list of notes or a summary** - whichever helps you boil down the main point of the reading best (can be written in the margins or on the notebook page)

How Will It Be Graded?

10% = Appearance (neatness & organization)
50% = Completeness of all assignments
40% = Quality of work