



**Christian Heritage School
2022 Required Summer Reading
For UConn United States History**

In preparation for the UConn American History course, each student is required to complete the assignments below. This assignment is designed to be completed over the course of the summer – don't wait until the last minute!

Assignment

Read **ONE** of the following texts:

Mayflower, by Nathaniel Philbrick

A Land as God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America, by James Horn

John Adams, by David McCullough

1776, by David McCullough

After you have read your selected text, write an essay that addresses the question below. Essays should be 4-5 pages in length (approximately 1600 words or more), typed, well-organized and demonstrated thoughtful reflection of the work. Although this is not a research paper, if you do consult other sources for further information and clarification, please give proper credit in citations and bibliography. Be sure to include a word count. Essays will be due on the second day of class.

Question: What is the thesis (the primary purpose/argument) of the text? In other words, what is the author's particular analysis of the period, people, and events? Provide evidence that supports your evaluation. To do that, consider the following: How are major topics discussed and developed? What themes emerge throughout the text that connects events, people, and/or decisions? How are major historical people portrayed? How are the central political, social, economic, and cultural (including religion) issues addressed/developed? Be sure to quote from the text for support, as appropriate.