**Homework Assignment Descriptions and Expectations**

 There will be a number of different types of assignments used this year in our class, but there are a few types that are consistently used on a weekly basis throughout the year… our “staple assignments”. Since these will be used regularly, it will be important for you to know how to complete them correctly, completely, and efficiently. The following describes each type of assignment, explains its purpose, and what each should include upon completion.

1. **The “ATQ” Assignment:**

This is the classic “read the assigned portion and answer some questions” assignment. “ATQ” means ANSWER THE QUESTION. The purpose of these assignments is to give the student an opportunity to build some familiarity with a set of concepts and/or events and to think, reason, or make predictions about those concepts/events PRIOR to next day’s class where we will BUILD on that prior knowledge. Students must respond *specifically to the question being asked*… in all its parts, using examples and/or evidence to illustrate and validate their response. Typically, the assignment is to read 5-10 pages of text and answer 3-7 questions on what you just read. That should take roughly 15-20 minutes. Some students may take more time until their skills improve/develop or strategies are identified to resolve issues concerning problems like time management, organization, concentration/distraction etc…

1. **Identifications (IDs):**

You’ve defined terms in lots of classes throughout your academic career. For this class though, that activity is a bit different; it’s a two-step process for each term. Step 1, define the term as specifically and accurately as possible. Step 2, describe/explain that term’s significance, importance, or overall connection to the Main Topic of the chapter section you’re working in.

 Example: **tobacco**- a commodity cash crop of high market value native to the

 Western hemisphere.

 -*significance*: tobacco provided a highly-profitable revenue source for

 the early European colonies of the Americas. This profitability drove

 further conquest and conflict among the colonizing empires. Also, the

 labor-intensive nature of this crop drove the demand for slave labor

 within the colonies.

1. **Context Narratives:**

A context narrative is nothing more than a story that uses a group of key terms correctly in context as well as giving attention to other important details such as chronology (sequence of events) and time period. Practicing using concepts and key terms in context is an excellent way to build a deeper understanding of how events, people, and ideas are tied together throughout history… or the present for that matter.

1. **Graphic Organizers (GOs):**

A Graphic Organizer is simply an activity (usually in some sort of chart/graph form) that helps you organize and differentiate a lot of similar information, concepts, key people, etc… They’re super-helpful for comparing or contrasting ideas and events and are excellent study notes.