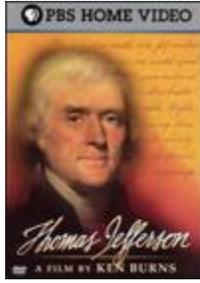


**ADVANCED
PLACEMENT
U. S.
HISTORY
SUMMER
PROJECT**



Melissa A. York
NEH Summer Institute
Thomas Jefferson:
Personality, Character & Public Life
July 2006

Intended Audience

This project is aimed at incoming 11th grade Advanced Placement United States History students. It is designed to be complete independently during the summer months prior to students beginning the course.

Purpose and Learning Objectives

The purpose of this assignment is twofold. 1) It is for students to demonstrate their work which will be used as the basis for the teacher to evaluate student writing skills. 2) It will introduce students to the discussion of democracy, race, culture and the intent/meaning of America—all themes for the course.

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

Thomas Jefferson is enshrined in American mythology as one of the greatest, if not *the* greatest, founding father. There are national monuments, coins, libraries and universities that honor him. Some would even say that to be an American is to be a Jeffersonian. This project is designed not only to help you understand America's founding era, through the eyes of Thomas Jefferson, but to understand the meaning of America to those who live today.

PART A

1. Watch *Thomas Jefferson: A Film by Ken Burns*. The King County Library System has several copies of it. You can also check Blockbuster Video, Hollywood Video or Netflix—as most of these companies carry it in their warehouses, but most will vary with the availability of it in their local stores.

2. In addition to answering the questions from the attached worksheet, you will want to take notes during this 3 hour documentary as preparation for Part C of this assignment.

PART B

1. Go to <http://www.pbs.org/jefferson> to access the PBS website for the film. After getting acquainted with the site's home page, click on the link to the film's

Archives, and then to the Interview Transcripts. Then choose to read the interviews from Group A, B, C or D.

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Julian Bond	Robert H. Cooley III	John Hope Franklin	James Horton
Joseph Ellis	Jan Lewis	Merrill Peterson	Garry Wills
Gore Vidal	Andrew Burstein	Paul Finkleman	Daniel Boorstin
Natalie Bober	George Will	James Cox	Lewis Simpson
Timothy Ferris	Gregory Freiden	Lucia (Cinder) Stanton	Dell Upton

2. For each (individual) interview that you read, please do the following write two to three sentences summarizing the interviewee’s answer on six of the following issues: (Note: you may answer different questions for each interview)

- Why this person’s opinion on Jefferson should be valued (in other words why was this person interviewed in comparison to someone else?) You may need to “google” this person to get more information.
- Jefferson’s physical description
- Description of Jefferson’s home at Monticello and/or Poplar Forest
- Jefferson’s views on slavery/racism
- The Sally Hemings controversy
- Jefferson’s views of or relationship with women (his wife Martha, Maria Cosway, or his daughters)
- The meaning of “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.”
- The meaning of “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”
- Jefferson’s relationship to, or comparison with Alexander Hamilton
- Jefferson’s relationship to, or comparison with John Adams
- Jefferson’s view on religion, and/or the separation between church and state
- Jefferson’s legacy
- Why do we still revere him today?
- What moment of Jefferson’s life would this person want to be present at and why?

PART C

Write a two-page, size 12 font, double-spaced essay on one of the following prompts. Base your response on your knowledge of Thomas Jefferson as gleaned from the documentary video and the scholars’ interviews. Be sure to have an overall essay thesis, multiple paragraphs and paragraph topic sentences that address your essay’s overall thesis.

1. Evaluate the Merrill Peterson's statement: "Thomas Jefferson is...the man who propounded the fundamental principles to which the nation became dedicated, and those principles became the nation's creed."
2. Answer Clay Jenkinson's question regarding Jefferson's character: "Was he a contemptible hypocrite as some believe? Or were there simply inconsistencies between his life and his vision as others would like to believe? Or is there some way understanding this which preserves the integrity of Jefferson?"