



# AMERICA: THE LAST BEST HOPE

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE “AP AUDIT PROCESS”

[The AP Course Audit](#) site gives an overview of the audit process, provides a timeline of due dates and explains how to set up an account.

[The US History AP Audit](#) site offers a number of links to help with planning out your syllabus and a variety of curricular resources and textbooks.

Teacher tips for planning AP US History and developing a syllabus:

1. Review the sample syllabi on the AP Audit – US History site to get ideas for what to cover and some activities that might be helpful.
2. Don't get overwhelmed with the sheer volume of the course or the length of some of the syllabi. Just take it unit by unit and try to figure out how to apply the information into your class/teaching style/situation (bell schedule, school expectations and duties, etc.).
3. Remember that the goal is to teach history, not to teach to the test. Certainly, the test might determine some of the time you spend on certain topics but don't get so consumed with the test that you forget to teach the key ideas and facts about US History and the types of thinking skills that will help them both in school and beyond.
4. Register for the AP US History [listserv/electronic discussion group](#) so that you can see what other AP US History teachers are doing.
5. Students take AP in order to get challenged, so, challenge them with essays, thought-provoking questions, deliberations/debates, plays and other activities.
6. Be specific and clear with what you want to cover.
7. Don't be afraid to try out new activities and projects.
8. Bring history to life! Have fun and don't get bogged down in all the treaties, dates, tariffs, etc. Reading historical stories from *America: The Last Best Hope*, play review games, perform short plays including some from the Roadmap website, share short video clips from various websites including the Roadmap, and VHS/DVDs and role-playing. For example, hold a potluck from the late 1800's where each student takes on a character from the time period including immigrants groups, freedmen, cowboys, captains of industry, early progressives, etc.