

GATE SS - Summer Assignment 2009

Part I – Presidential Biography (100 points)

This summer you are going to read a biography of a US president. Find a biography that fits with your reading level and exposes you to new information. Once you read the biography, complete the following tasks listed below. Remember that all writing needs to be in your own words. Also, all information must be cited from the biography that you read. NO WIKIPEDIA OR OTHER INTERNET RESEARCH IS ALLOWED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.

1. Write a paragraph giving the basic biographical background information about this president. Include time/place of birth, family background, important childhood information, education and career background before becoming president, and time/place of death (if relevant).
2. Write a paragraph that describes the historical era when this man lived in the White House. Describe the population of the country, current transportation, current technological developments, important current events, social or fashion trends, popular music and movies (if applicable), etc.
3. Write a paragraph about this president's three strongest character traits. Identify each trait and give examples from the biography. Explain how this trait helped him as president.
4. Write a paragraph about this president's two to three weakest character traits or weaknesses of his presidency. Identify each trait and give examples from the biography. Explain how this trait may or may not have hurt his presidency.
5. In the fifth and final paragraph, evaluate this man and his presidency. What do you think of him as a person? What do you think of him as a president? Give citations for your reasons.

** There will be an oral presentation to accompany your report within the first week of school.

Part II - United States Geography Test (100 points)

1. Memorize the location of the 50 states. Be prepared to label all 50 states on a map within the first week of school.
2. Memorize the capitals of the 50 states. Be prepared to list all 50 capitals within the first week of school.

** Study aid – There are internet programs that help students study for this type of test.

Please detach and return

I have read and understand the expectations of the summer GATE assignment.

Student Name (please print)

Parent Name (please print)

Parent Signature