

Mrs. Dawson's U.S. History Class



FAQ About Your U.S. History Binder

What type of binder do I need for Mrs. Dawson's class? What goes in it?

- 3-ring, 1 inch or 1 ½ inch, plastic front and back cover
- inside front pocket, inside back pocket
- 8 subject dividers with tabs in the following order: **Classwork, Notes, Study Guides, Outlines + Drafts, Revisions, Graded Papers, Other, Loose-leaf**

What do I need to do if my parent/guardian cannot provide me with a binder or the dividers and tabs I need for this class?

- You were supposed to see Mrs. Dawson before the supply check date.
- She has a few extra binders to give to students in her classroom.
- She will also show you how to make your own dividers and tabs.

How often must I bring it to class? What other supplies do I need for this class?

- Bring your binder to class every time class meets, no matter what is on the agenda for the day.
- The other supplies you are required to bring daily are your textbook, planner and a pen/pencil case with blue/black ink pens, ink pens of various colors, colored pencils, highlighters, Sharpies, etc.

What goes in the front plastic view pocket on the binder?

- Your binder must have a typed cover page. The text of the page must be big, bold and centered.
- The text of the page should read:

Your Name
8th Grade
U.S. History
Room 119
Mrs. Dawson

- Include a picture of some person, place or thing that reminds you of America.

What goes in the back plastic view pocket on the binder?

- A copy of the Supply List Reminder handout, which was included in the Course Packet handout.

Why do I have to have a binder for this class? Why must the contents be placed in the proper order?

- To keep handouts and assignments organized
- To save time at the beginning of class when it's time to take out certain items to turn in or place on your desk
- To store graded papers for the purpose of using them for studying for quizzes and tests
- To store graded papers as proof of work submitted in case there's an error on Mi-Star that needs to be corrected
- To have the whole year of 8th Grade U.S. History handy to refresh/"brush up on" the summer before taking 20th Century U.S. History in the 9th grade or A.P./I.B. U.S. History in grade 10. The high school history teachers will assume that you will still remember major concepts/principles/skills/facts that you will learn this year.
- To maintain a record of your learning growth throughout the course of the year

When will Mrs. Dawson grade binders? How much is a binder check worth?

- Your full binder will be graded towards the end of each semester.
- You will receive a binder checklist that will list the order of the assignments within each category. Then, you will be given 3-4 nights to organize it at home.
- It will take approximately 5-6 class periods to grade the binder of every student in your class. You will work on class-work/homework from the current or next unit of study during these class periods.
- It will be worth approximately 300-500 points.

What should my U.S. History binder contain?

- It should contain every handout/assignment distributed within the semester up to that point.
- Each handout/assignment should already be placed inside one of the eight designated categories.

What if I don't know where to file a particular handout/assignment?

- Every assignment/handout has a "home" within one of the eight designated categories.
- Every time the title of an assignment/handout has been listed on the whiteboard as an agenda item, the word(s) in the parenthesis next to the title will tell you where to file it.

- Determine what type of assignment it is and file it in its' proper category.
Examples: If the handout was based on notes from a lecture, file the handout in the *NOTES* section. If the handout was given in class, and you worked on it only in class, that assignment should be filed in the *CLASSWORK* section.
 If a handout provides directions and/or a rubric for an assignment or if it doesn't fit neatly into one of the other seven categories, place it in *OTHER*.

How should handouts/assignments be filed within a category?

File every new handout/assignment behind the last one given. The oldest handout/assignment given within each category goes first. The newest handout/assignment given goes last.

What happens if I forget to bring my binder to class?

- You will not be able to return to your locker to retrieve it.
- You will have to remember to file any new handout/assignment you receive that day in its proper category.
- If there's an assignment due that day, you will be allowed to submit it the next day late for -20% reduced credit.
- Failure to bring your binder or any of the other required supplies 3 times within any semester will result in a before/after school detention.
- Stand at your locker before arriving to Mrs. Dawson's class and say the acronym, "T.P.P.B.," aloud to yourself, (Textbook, Planner, Pen case, Binder). This should help you to remember everything you need.

What happens if I lose my binder?

- Tell Mrs. Dawson and your parents right away!
- You will need a new binder, dividers and tabs.
- You will have to come before or after school for Mrs. Dawson to show you where to find replacement copies for everything you've lost. This may take up to 45-60 minutes depending on how much work you have to replace.
- You should be able to replace every handout/assignment in all categories except GRADED PAPERS.