

IB History of the Americas Summer Assignment

Dear Rising Junior,

Welcome back to my class! I hope all of you are enjoying your summer with wonderful adventures and plenty of sleep. I am looking forward to seeing you all in August; however, before then I need you to complete the following assignments to be prepared for class.

You are enrolled in IB History of the Americas. In this class we will compare major events in The United States, Latin America (primarily Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico), and Canada from each country's independence until the 1980's.

Your summer assignment will prepare you for our first unit, which an analysis of how history is created—this is known as historiography. We will analyze the book *The Fish That Ate the Whale* by Rich Cohen to examine how historians today are studying history.

Your Summer Assignments

1. **Clean** your room! In the process dig up all of your notes from US History freshman year. We will be comparing many events in Latin America to the same events in the United States. Therefore, your life will be much easier if you have your US notes to reference.
2. **Send** me an email sometime this summer telling me: what you are doing this summer, what books you are reading this summer, your plan for success in IB History of the Americas, which college majors you are contemplating, what questions you have about the summer assignment or this upcoming course, and anything else you think I should know.
3. **Begin Reading** *The Fish That Ate The Whale* by Rich Cohen. You really can put this off until the end of the summer, as this will be the book that we will be reading the first couple weeks of school. You can stop by school during teacher work week (the week of August 18) to check out a book from me. **Be ready for an assessment on the first day of school (Monday, August 25, 2013) on the Preface through page 120. The second half of the book—pages 123-142—will be assessed the following week.** These will count as reading check quizzes for your first quarter grade. Take notes on these questions as you read:
 1. What is the significance of the quotes at the beginning of the book?
 2. What sources does Cohen use to create his argument?
 3. How does American involvement in Latin America change throughout the book?
 4. What is Cohen's purpose for writing this book?
 5. Why would this book be valuable for a historian researching Banana Republics?
 6. What limitations, for a historian researching Banana Republics, does this book pose?
 7. How does this book shape your views on American business abroad?
 8. In what ways is the story of Samuel Zemurray a success? A failure?

