



Dr. Sandra B. Carihfield - AICE - Sarasota High School

AICE American History parent,

In an effort to better communicate with my students and their parents I am asking you to read and respond to the two letters attached. I will e-mail updates every two weeks to parents and students. If you do not wish to receive these updates respond on the form that will be returned to me by the student.

The video permission form is required by the district and is to inform you of the films I will **possibly** use this year. The films all have review questions on line for you and the student to see. This section will illustrate the material the student is responsible to know after watching these films. There will be a class discussion on each of the films. If you would like to preview the films that would be fine and you can e-mail a change in permission if you wish. I have books the student can read if they wish to read instead of seeing it on the screen. Some students opt for that and it is fine with me. I will write a pass to the library and they do not have to be in the class room or be noticed that they are doing another assignment. I have listed all the films I might show time permitting in this class. The administration is aware of my showing these films and I have submitted educational support materials to tie them to the state and county standards. The series *Eyes on the Prize*, *Genocide*, and *Radio Bikini* are famous documentaries. *Hearts and Minds* won the academy award for best documentary. *Glory* won five awards and is a Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick, and Morgan Freeman film. The *Triangle Factory Fire* and *I Will Fight No More Forever* films were made as television movies. *Forrest Gump* is PG13 and stars Tom Hanks. *Mississippi Burning* is a Gene Hackman, Frances McDormand, and Willem Defoe film. *Iron Jawed Angels* is a Hilary Swank movie. *All Quiet on the Western Front* is a version made in the 70s with Ernest Borgnine and Richard Thomas. *Apollo 13* and *Nixon/Frost* are Ron Howard films. *Hearts and Minds*, *Nixon/Frost*, *Pan's Labyrinth*, *Mississippi Burning*, *Glory*, *Amistad*, and *Saving Private Ryan* are R rated. They are all rated R for violence that is shown in war or slavery. The violence is historically accurate violence. Language is the reason for the Frost/Nixon rating that is due to the language of the President of the United States which is accurately portrayed. The language in the other films listed is in the context of soldiers in war. The one listed with nudity (*Amistad*) is a female slave with a baby and is in context to the scene. I have used these films for more than ten years and they are of great value in teaching American History. I enjoy watching them with my students and I have seen most over fifty times. I feel this visual component adds to the power of learning. I hope this gives you some insight into how these films are utilized. Thank you for your interest and I hope this answers your questions about them.

All Quiet on the Western Front – WWI looked at through the eyes of the famous novel by Erich Maria Remarque

Amistad – The true story of the international slave trade and the slave mutiny case [1997 155min.
R – violence and nudity]



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Apollo 13 – The fated story of the space flight that almost ended in disaster [1995, PG, 140 min]

Eyes on the Prize – The civil rights years 1950-1970

Forrest Gump – Mentally challenged individual explores the politics and popular culture of the 60s, 70s, and 80s [1994 PG13 142 min]

Genocide – Holocaust film narrated by Elizabeth Taylor and Orson Wells [1981, on-line free, PG, 82 min]

Glory – 54th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War [1989, R, violence, 122min]

Hearts and Minds – Viet Nam conflict documentary [1974, R, best documentary, 112 min]

I Will Fight No More Forever – Nez Perce flight to Canada (reservation system versus the independence of Pacific Northwest tribe- Chief Joseph)

Iron Jawed Angels – Alice Paul and women's fight for the vote [2004, NR, 123 min]

Mississippi Burning – FBI investigation into the deaths of three civil rights workers [1988, R, 128 min]

Nixon/Frost – The famous interviews with Nixon after the Watergate investigation and his resignation [2008, language, R, 122 min]

Pan's Labyrinth – An allegory combining a child's fantasy world and Fascist Spain [2006, R, 119 min]

Radio Bikini – Nuclear testing in the Pacific in the 1950s [1988, NR]

Saving Private Ryan – Finding a soldier in WWII whose brothers have died/ D-Day [1998, R, 169 min]

Triangle Factory Fire – 1911 shirtwaist factory fire (Progressives, immigrants, factory conditions, city life)

I will also ask you to look at my website if you wish to know what we are doing this semester. The site is shshistory.com or you can Google it with my name. All assignments for the entire semester are located on the AICE American History tab. A calendar for the entire semester is also under the calendar tab. Additional review materials, citation help, my biography, my contact information, video questions, supplemental reading assignments, important passwords, links to text books, and citation machine. So if a student is absent or you are making plans to be out of town you will know what we are doing in class.

Each student should have picked up a textbook by now so they may have a textbook at home. This is their responsibility and cannot be done by me. The students are responsible for reading the entire text on their own time. It is a condensed and readable text. The website also lists suggested readings and texts that should be read to supplement the main text. In addition to these opportunities I have had the students assigned an AP college text as another resource text.

The classroom has thirty computers in it, which I wrote a grant to provide my students with computer access to Word 2007 and the Internet. There are rules they must follow to be able to use them but they do not have to use them every day if they do not wish to word process their



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work. The students may e-mail their assignments to me from home to the Angel Network and I have a yahoo account for them to use even if they do not have an e-mail account.

The student needs 250 note cards, any size, and a ring to hold them together. The student may make these cards from paper but the cards do need to survive for the entire year. They may use a string to tie them together. (Each card will be hole punched, I have three in my classroom they may use.)

There after school seminars designed to review material and assist in writing skills. They are scheduled throughout the year. They are one hour long and are highly recommended. These seminars will give students that extra edge to be successful on the AICE final exam.

I look forward to a great semester with your son/daughter. I hope this information is helpful. Please remember to sign the video permission form and fill out the e-mail information sheet. If you need to talk to me use the information on the website or the syllabus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra B. Carihfield