From the Text: America — A Narrative History

Part One:

Please complete the following focus questions associated with the laborious packet you received for the first day of school. Answer with coherent, robust and fully realized responses and please cite evidence where applicable. Feel free to highlight, mark-up, and/or take notes on this packet any way you see fit. Note that some sections have already been highlighted for your viewing pleasure. Typed answers only, no larger than 12 point font. Aim for roughly one third of a page to half a page for each response, although some questions may require more or less space depending on the prompt. Again, I will collect on day one. 52 points in total - Good Luck!

Chapter One: The Collision of Cultures...

1) What civilizations existed in pre-Columbian America and what were their origins?
2) How would you articulate and evaluate the aggregate impact of Columbus.
3) What were both the overarching and specific goals of the European voyages of discovery and of the explorers who probed the shorelines of America?
4) What were the substantive consequences of the exchanges and clashes that accompanied European contact with the plants, animals, and people of the New World?

Chapter Two: Britain and its Colonies...

5) How would you articulate the scope of the “settlement experience” at Jamestown?
6) Employing evidence, what were the reasons for the founding of the different and diverse colonies in North America?
7) How did the British colonists and the Native Americans react and adapt to each other’s presence?

Chapter Three: Colonial Ways of Life...
9) What were the social and economic differences among the southern, middle, and New England colonies? How and why did these differences occur?

10) What happened at Salem in 1692? More interestingly, what are the possible reasons why it happened? Finally, what can these events help to tell us about life in the New England colonies and the possible confluence of religion, power and fear?

11) How did people of different genders, races, and classes fit into colonial society?

12) Highlight the early course of slavery in America and explain the impact therein. Where did it take hold and why?

13) What was the impact of the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening on the American colonies?

Part Two:

During the second week of school you will have a traditional quiz on your understanding of these chapters along with any new material we might cover. This assessment will be worth anywhere between 30 and 50 Points and will take the form of multiple choice and short answer responses. More details to come on day one.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact Mr. K (see photo at right)...

...Have a wonderful summer!

P.S. — I have left extra copies of the assignment in the school counseling office on the first floor...you’re welcome!