

*Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*

Author: Joseph Ellis

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In retrospect, it seems as if the American Revolution was inevitable. But was it? In *Founding Brothers*, Joseph J. Ellis reveals that many of those truths we hold to be self-evident were actually fiercely contested in the early days of the republic.

Ellis focuses on six crucial moments in the life of the new nation, including a secret dinner at which the seat of the nation's capital was determined--in exchange for support of Hamilton's financial plan; Washington's precedent-setting Farewell Address; and the Hamilton and Burr duel. Most interesting, perhaps, is the debate (still dividing scholars today) over the meaning of the Revolution. In a fascinating chapter on the renewed friendship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson at the end of their lives, Ellis points out the fundamental differences between the Republicans, who saw the Revolution as a liberating act and hold the Declaration of Independence most sacred, and the Federalists, who saw the revolution as a step in the building of American nationhood and hold the Constitution most dear. Throughout the text, Ellis explains the personal, face-to-face nature of early American politics--and notes that the members of the revolutionary generation were conscious of the fact that they were establishing precedents on which future generations would rely. -- Sunny Delaney (Amazon.com)

**Rationale**

The summer assignment provides students the opportunity to survey the colonial & founding periods of American history (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries). Approximately 20% of the AP exam administered will be based on this time period. This assignment, which is divided into two parts, is given over the summer to expose students to the type of reading and writing work they will be completing this year and to help guarantee that the AP history classes will be able to spend the necessary amount of time needed in studying post-colonial history.

**Due Date**

Summer reading assignments will be due on the first day of classes. Summer reading assignment is worth 100 points. No late work will be accepted for summer reading. Failure to attend the lecture night will result in a grade loss.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

Plagiarized work copied from another student or any other print or electronic source will receive no credit and further disciplinary actions will be taken in accordance with the St. Luke's Episcopal School Honor Code.

**Grading** The AP essay rubric will be used to grade written work.

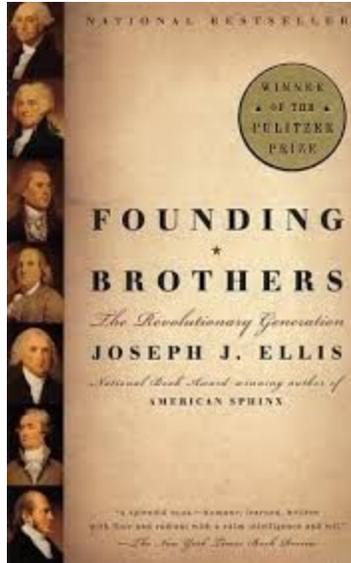
**8-9 (A)** A well-organized and thorough response which cites abundant, specific factual examples from the reading.

**6-7 (B)** Response shows acceptable organization but has more limited factual examples cited from the reading.

**4-5 (C)** Response has a degree of organization and cites a few examples from the reading. Response may be of a more generalized nature.

**2-3 (D)** Response lacks organization and is very limited in providing factual examples to answer the question.

**0-1 (F)** A very poor response which is inappropriate, off-topic, or confused and shows no evidence of having completed the reading.



## **PART I: Founding Brothers**

Directions: Read the preface, "The Generation". Read the rest of the book and answer the questions below in essay format. Each essay should be approximately one to one-and-a-half pages typed (**double-spaced**) for a total of six to ten pages.

### **Ch. 1: "The Duel"**

Discuss the significance of the duel as it related to the young, fledgling nation.

### **Ch 2: "The Dinner"**

Describe the "sharp differences" dividing the leadership of the revolutionary generation.

### **Ch 3: "The Silence"**

Contrast the arguments of the North and the South on the issue of slavery.

### **Ch. 4: "The Farewell"**

Explain what Washington had in mind when he composed the Farewell Address.

### **Ch. 5: "The Collaborators"**

Ellis indicates that "the truly effective centers of power were located in two political partnerships based on personal trust." Explain and discuss this statement.

### **Ch. 6: "The Friendship"**

Adams and Jefferson had conflicting visions of the American Revolution. Explain the essentials of this difference.