

Dear Workshop Participants,

Welcome to the University of Iowa Advanced Placement Summer Institute Program for United States History. My name is Ralph Rollins and it is my privilege to lead this week's workshop. I am a College Board trained presenter with 7 years of experience. More importantly, I am a High School teacher just like you, working in the trenches every day, trying to find the best way for my kids to become lifelong learners and critical thinkers.

I will have completed my 37th year of teaching with experience at the Junior High, High School and College level and in both public and private schools with traditional and block scheduling.

I'm not coming into this week thinking that I have all the answers, and I do believe that I get as much out of these workshops, as I hope you will. This will be a collaborative experience; we will learn from each other.

My belief is that teachers with little or no involvement with Advanced Placement type classes have as much to contribute as some of us veterans, especially in the fields of technology.

The College Board has revamped its summer institutes so that all Summer Workshop participants will get the same experience as everyone else throughout the Advanced Placement world. I think it's a positive change, and only time will tell how these changes will affect the institutes themselves. I am coming into this with an open mind. I will always remember that I am here for you and your needs, whether you have been teaching APUSH for 30 years or have never taught it before. Most of the changes were made because of statistical analysis shows glaring needs in the area of historical thinking skills and gaps in historical interpretation of content.

Please bring with you your most effective lessons, handouts and activities, as well as your textbooks. A laptop or other technological device will be helpful. More importantly bring your experiences and whatever needs you have for the next school year. I have always felt that if I can come away with at least one effective tool to help me be a better teacher, then the workshop was a success.