

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY
Mrs. Rudinski

SUMMER READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK
THE FOUNDING BROTHERS BY Joseph J. Ellis

Chapter 1 The Duel pages 20 to 47

1. Who was involved in the duel?
2. What was the cause of the duel?
3. Where did the duel take place?
4. Why was dueling called an "interview"?
5. There were two eyewitnesses to the duel. Who were they and what was their "joint" statement?
6. What did Ellis think really happened at the duel?

Chapter 2 The Dinner pages 48 to 80

1. Who attended the dinner?
2. What was the key topic dealt with at the dinner?
3. What was Hamilton's idea that caused so much controversy?
4. What did Madison and Jefferson think of Hamilton's plan?
5. What was the "Compromise of 1790"?

Chapter 3 The Silence pages 81 to 120

1. In the debate about slavery, what were the views of the following:
 - a. the Quakers'
 - b. James Jackson from Georgia
 - c. Pennsylvania Abolition Society
 - d. James Madison
 - e. Ben Franklin
2. The differences of opinion foreshadowed the future problem posed by slavery. What was the decision on the power given to Congress in the Constitution?
3. What did the census of 1790 show about the institution of slavery?
4. What would a comprehensive plan for emancipation of slaves have to include?
5. Where would the freed slaves be relocated?
6. In Chapter 3 Joseph Ellis pays a complimentary tribute to Ben Franklin. What does Ellis say about Franklin?

Chapter 4 The Farewell pages 120 to 161

There are many different points presented in this chapter dealing with Washington's Farewell Address. For a classroom discussion, please be familiar with the following information.

- differences of opinion between Jefferson and Washington
- similarities of ideas between Washington and Hamilton
- how long it took to put the address together
- what was the Proclamation of Neutrality
- The Jay Treaty - why it was so controversial
- what Washington was trying to express in his address
- when Washington spoke to "Friends" and "Fellow Citizens" to whom was he referring
- in Washington's "Address to the Cherokee Nation" What did Washington suggest the Indians do

Chapter 5 "The Collaborators" pages 162-205

1. What was Adams' view on the politics of the political party?
2. Why were Adams and Jefferson were considered the "odd couple"?
3. What role did Abigail Adams play in her husband's career?
4. Describe the role John Adams played during the Washington presidency. What was Adams' opinion of his years as Vice President?
5. What did John Adams think of Campaigning?
6. Did Jefferson actively seek out the office of President?
7. What was Adams position concerning American involvement in the French Revolution? How did it compare to the opinion of Jefferson?
8. Why was the statement made "whoever followed Washington was probably doomed to failure"? (p 185)
9. The XYZ Affair, The Alien and Sedition Acts, what were these and what are Ellis' thoughts on these events? (p 189) "He was a President without a party. "What does Ellis mean by this comment?
10. What was Jefferson's view on the Sedition Act?
11. When Jefferson and Madison authored the Kentucky and Virginia Resolves in response to the Alien and Sedition Acts what were their reasons for doing so?
12. John Adams did not "run" for the presidency as political office seekers do today. He did not make decisions based on public opinion. How did he approach his decisions? P 204

Chapter 6 "The Friendship" page 206-248

1. Joseph J. Ellis writes, "They had done so much together, struggled together against the odds in 1776, represented America in Europe during the 1780's, risen above their political differences during Washington's administration. But during his own presidency Adams believed Jefferson had betrayed him and their friendship." (p. 207) In a well developed essay of approximately 300 words discuss the relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Include in your essay at least two points on which they differed, the role Abigail Adams played in this relationship, how they reconciled, and how these two men regarded each other in their final years and the irony of their deaths.