Hello and welcome to your freshman year of high school! This year we will be working on many skills including reading and analyzing of documents. In order to prepare for the upcoming assignment, you are asked to consider the following essential question:

**Essential Question: How does trade impact individual and government decision making?**

This question will be the basis for our learning upon returning to school. This question does not have one right or wrong answer, so you are asked to used information and evidence that you may find in current event articles, nonfiction texts, websites, documentaries, etc. to begin to think about a response.

Ideas to research related to trade:

**Silk Road, Indian Ocean Trade, Colombian Exchange, Sugar Trade, Current Events, etc.**

If you choose to research one of these topics, please compose a written response answering the essential question using your research on a topic listed above. Responses should be about a 1-2 pages long, typed, double spaced with a minimum of size 12 font. Include the original research article with your response.

**This is NOT a mandatory summer assignment. It is suggested to help you prepare for the upcoming school year and give you a chance to practice your reading and writing skills and serve as a baseline for your teacher.**

The most important action you can take this summer is to READ! Everything! Reading 20 minutes a day exposes you to 1.8 million words a year! This will help your speaking, reading, and writing skills.