

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## American History – Chapter 7

### Worksheet: “Divining America: Religion in American History”

*Preface: Chapter 7 will be covered in several segments. In Segment 1, I will lead you through an examination of the phenomenon of spiritualism, beginning in early 19<sup>th</sup> century America. In Segment 2, you will be asked to complete an on-line exercise and class report (using this worksheet as your guide). In Segment 3, you will have an open book evaluation of the full chapter on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.*

For this activity, we will examine the role that religion in all its forms has played throughout American history, and examine its impact on American culture. As a Jesuit, Catholic school McQuaid is blessed in its ability to examine these questions fully and to relate our tradition to this subject as well.

- As a first step in this exercise, examine our textbook to determine roughly what percentage of it covers religious topics. Record your estimate in the space provided below. Add any comments you wish.
  
- Next, visit the following Internet site: [Divining America: Religion and National Culture](#). Select any one (1) of the twenty-four listed essays. Then do the following:
  - Read the entire essay. In the space below,
    - summarize the main points of the essay either in outline form, or in 3-4 paragraphs. (Use additional paper if you need to. Be prepared to present this summary to the class on Thursday and Friday of this week.)

- Summarize the section “Historians Debate”, if such a section was included with your essay:

- Summarize the main points of “Guiding Student Discussion” if such a section is included in your essay. (This is actually a section to help teachers – mainly in public schools – adhere to guidelines for religious discussions in class.)
  
- Prepare a 5 minute summary presentation for the class. These will be due on Thursday and Friday (10/30 and 10/31). You may bring in visuals (pictures, charts, etc.) if you think they will help your presentation. Your presentation should include 1) a summary of the main points of the essay, 2) a summary of any historical debate the essay describes, and 3) a summary of any "suggestions" for teachers who might be leading a student discussion on the essay you have chosen.
  
- Hand in your summary worksheet after you have made your class presentation.