Summer Assignment between Year 1 History and Year 2 History

Develop Research Paper Topic for your IA.
This Summer assignment will minimize the stress that you have during your Senior year by giving you a strong base to build off of with me over the first few months of school to get a draft of your paper that is solid and able to reach the higher mark bands. Delay will only create more stress as you try to catch up.

I. Narrow topic through extensive background reading, including some specific academic secondary source material on your topic.

II. Determine the types of primary sources that you will be utilizing.
   A. Your research needs to be based on primary source material.
   B. Your argument will be proven via primary source material, as well as supported by established histories presented in secondary material.
   C. Exclusive secondary sourced papers generally do not do well on the IB rubric.

   1. If you want to do a research paper on an older topic, something in the medieval world, that is fine. There are primary sources available that are translated.
   2. The key would be to combine specific primary sources in a unique way: a way that is unique to you and your research question.
   3. Not a re-hash of someone else’s research paper/book.
   4. For example:
      a) If you were to write about a topic on Galileo the scientist and his trial in 1632, you might decide after doing background reading to focus on his relationship with the Bellarmino, the head of a Catholic order known as the Jesuits.
      b) Galileo had some correspondence with Bellarmino and about Bellarmino and the Jesuits. (You would learn this through your specific background reading when developing this topic).
      c) You might then think about how his letters could be used to determine his relationship with them.
      d) So any letters that Galileo wrote, or were written to him, might shed some light on his relationship.

         (1) The questions would be:
            (a) Do such letters exist?
            (b) Do YOU have access to them?
               i) Are they online?
               ii) Are they translated?
         (2) If the answers are “yes” to both. You have found some primary source material that you can use as the basis of your paper.
      e) You must be careful that you are not just finding the letters cited in a historian’s book that that historian used to make his/her argument.
      f) Obviously, a high school student unfamiliar with the archives for a project will need historians to direct them to what is available. The key is to make sure that you are combining primary sources in a particular way that is unique to your question.
      g) This is one of the things that makes history one of the most challenging IB subjects. You have to do A LOT of work before you can even begin to do the work.

   III. When you have your topic and your primary source material make a list of the materials. This is the basis of your bibliography.
   A. A bibliography for this project should be about 6-10 secondary sources, utilizing specific parts of the books not the whole book.
   B. The number of primary sources will vary depending on the topic (the more recent the more primary sources you would be expected to have),
   C. But the key is to make sure that from the outset you are thinking about a project that is heavily based on primary sources.

By the beginning of school next year. You should have a list of secondary and primary sources. They do not need to be annotated, but should be ready to be turned in at the beginning of the school year.