Politics in the Classroom & Academic Transparency in K-12



Goldwater Institute Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy





New Business Item 2 (2019)

< PREVIOUS (2019)

ACTION: DEFEATED

NEXT (2019) >

The National Education Association will re-dedicate itself to the pursuit of increased student learning in every public school in America by putting a renewed emphasis on quality education. NEA will make student learning the priority of the Association. NEA will not waiver in its commitment to student learning by adopting the following lens through which we will assess every NEA program and initiative: How does the proposed action promote the development of students as lifelong reflective learners?



New Business Item 11 (2019)

Using existing resources, NEA will incorporate the concept of "White Fragility" into NEA trainings/staff development, literature, and other existing communications on



See https://indefenseofliberty.blog/2019/07/16/has-red-for-ed-turned-its-back-on-its-supporters/



New Business Item 25 (2019)

NEA will collaborate and partner with organizations and individuals who are doing the work to push reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans in the United States and to involve educators, students, and communities in the discussions around support for reparations. NEA will write an article in *NEA Today* to pay

ACTION: ADOPTED AS MODIFIED

See https://indefenseofliberty.blog/2019/07/16/has-red-for-ed-turned-its-back-on-its-supporters/

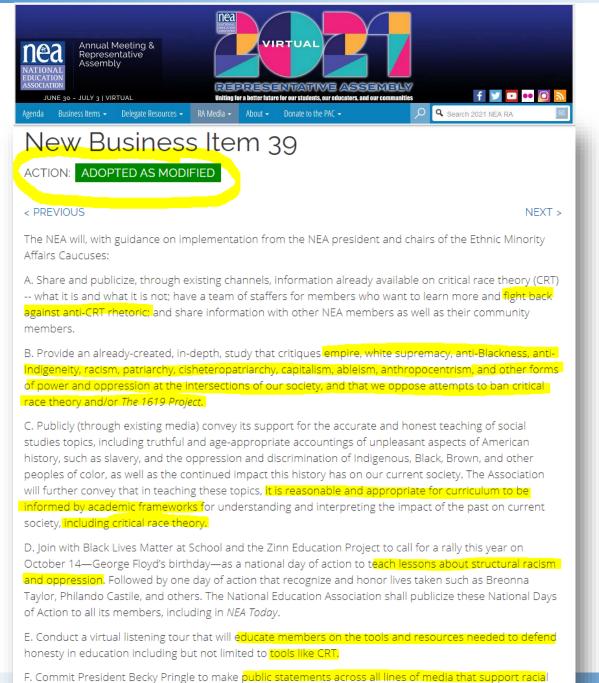


New Business Item 56 (2019)

people. The NEA vigorously opposes all attacks on the right to choose and stands on the fundamental right to abortion under Roe v. Wade.

ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

See https://indefenseofliberty.blog/2019/07/16/has-red-for-ed-turned-its-back-on-its-supporters/



honesty in education including but not limited to critical race theory.

https://web.archive.org/web/20210705090534/htt ps://ra.nea.org/business-item/2021-nbi-039/

Published in the "Education Newspaper of Record" Education Week (Fall 2020):

EDUCATION WEEK

"Keeping Politics Out of the Classroom Is Like Keeping the Water Out of Rain

We must take up controversial issues like racism, sexism, homophobia, or xenophobia, or inherently political topics such as gun control or climate change..."

http://blogs.edweek.org/teachers/classroom_qa_with_larry_ferlazzo/2020/10/keeping_politics_out_of_the_classroom_is_like_keeping_the_water_out_of_rain.html?cmp=eml-enl-eunews2&M=59724826&U=&UUID=85ec34aa2ce3d4f15d60e72e6f86cde1

Published in the "Education Newspaper of Record" Education Week (Fall 2020):

EDUCATION WEEK

"A Roadmap for Reparations in Education

...need not look far when devising a strategy for reparations.

...conduct deep racial-equity audits, eliminate whitewashed curriculum...

...and establish frameworks for applying a race-equity lens to future policy and programming decisions."

Published in the "Education Newspaper of Record" Education Week (Fall 2020):

EDUCATION WEEK

"Principals Need Help Building Anti-Racist Schools

...make social justice, equity, and anti-racism more prominent in the curriculum. The key...is hiring the right people and having the backing from the top...

...developing new syllabi and experiences for aspiring school leaders..."

Published in the "Education Newspaper of Record" Education Week (Spring 2021):

EDUCATION WEEK

"Same old Civics Ed. Won't Save Us

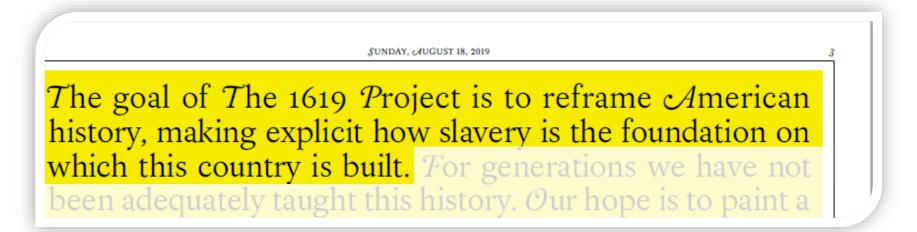
We do not need this restoration of American civic education. We need a total reconstruction...

Facts and patriotism are not the answer.
 It's long past time to confront white supremacy.
 Every teacher is a civics teacher.

Teachers of all subjects can and must connect their subject areas to real-world issues if schools hope to sustain democracy. "

New York Times 1619 Project

Rewriting American History for the Next Generation



Out of slavery — and the anti-black racism it required — grew nearly everything that has truly made America exceptional: its economic might, its industrial power, its electoral system, diet and

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/insider/nikole-hannah-jones-1619.html

New York Times 1619 Project

Rewriting American History for the Next Generation

country's history. Those who do are at most a tiny fraction of those who can tell you that 1776 is the year of our nation's birth. What if, however, we were to tell you that this fact, which is taught in our schools and unanimously celebrated every Fourth of July, is wrong, and that the country's true birth date, the moment that its defining contradictions first came into the world, was in late August of 1619? Though the exact

The 1619 Project in the Classroom

RealClear Investigations

Disputed NY Times '1619 Project' Already Shaping Schoolkids' Minds on Race



"Shana Hairston, a high school history teacher ... will be teaching a personal finance class this semester and said she could teach students about how capitalism works by using the 1619 Project essay linking capitalism to slavery."

Sample 1619 Project Curriculum Material

Browse Lessons Request Lesson

"Erasure Poetry: Highlighting Inequities, Envisioning Liberation"

Pulitzer Center

"...lay bare the real purpose of the document or transform it into something wholly new"

Among suggested documents: Declaration of Independence

"Create an erasure of your chosen document."

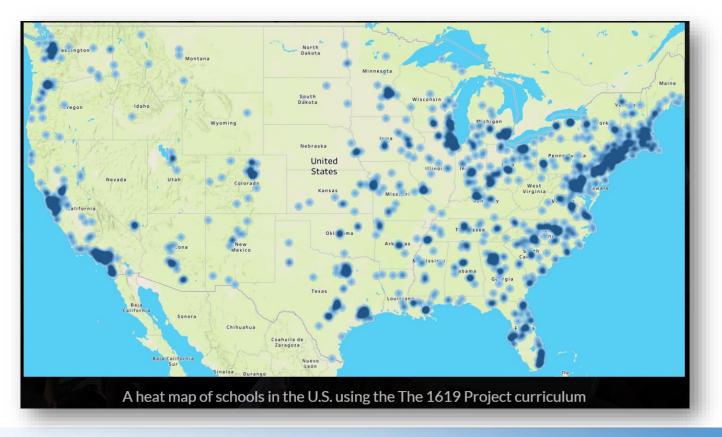
• Teb. 12, 1793: George Washington signs into law the first Fugitive Slave Act, which requires United States citizens to return runaway enslaved people to the state from which they came.



pprenod jognof and he by Prosident George Washington), February 12, 1793.

Do You Know Where the 1619 Project is Being Taught in Your State? Do Parents?

"Since its publication in August [2019], the 1619 Project has been adopted in more than 3,500 classrooms in all 50 states. It is mostly being used as supplemental, optional classroom teaching material. By and large, school systems are adopting the project by administrative fiat, not through a public textbook review process."



https://www.realclearinvestigations.com/articles/2020/01/31/disputed_ny_times_1619_project_is_already_shaping_kids_minds_on_race_bias_122192.html; https://pulitzercenter.shorthandstories.com/2019-annual-report/index.html

Snapshots inside America's Classrooms

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Proposed K-12 Math Ethnic Studies framework (20.08.2019)

Can you suggest resolutions to oppressive mathematical practices?

- How can we change mathematics from individualistic to collectivist thinking?
- How can we reframe our views of people/communities of color in mathematics?

Learning Target

 SWBAT analyze the ways in which ancient mathematical knowledge has been appropriated by Western culture.

What does it mean to do math?

 How important is it to be Right? What is Right? Says Who?





"We're teachers... I actually don't teach what's in our curriculum. I'm teaching children social studies that's not in our curriculum. I'm teaching them things about how to be an antiracist. I taught them about protesting. I taught them about Black Lives Matter. " --Campus Reform

https://www.campusreform.org/?ID=15168&utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_term=organic_post&utm_content=cro&utm_campaign= https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/socialstudies/pubdocs/Math%20SDS%20Ersework.pdf

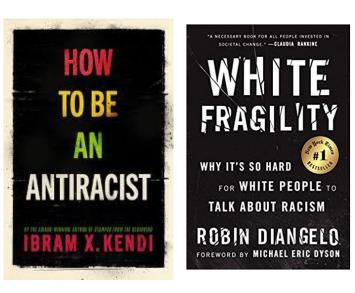
Publishers Pushing Radical Content, as Parents Left in the Dark

From Penguin Random House Publishers, email to Arizona School District staff:

"I wanted to specifically highlight some books that have been at the crux of current conversations on race and social justice in which many educators in AZ have been expressing interest. These books can be included in your curriculum, be the basis for an all school read, or added to your classroom library..."

•How to Be an Anti-Racist, by Ibram Kendi, <u>states</u>: "The most threatening racist movement is ... the regular American's drive for a race-neutral" state..."**The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination**."

 White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo, <u>states</u> "I strive to be 'less white.' To be less white is to be less racially oppressive"



"Curriculum" Less Important than What's Underneath. Example: Tucson Unified School District, AZ

12 th Grade	Social Studies Objecti	ves: Students will be able t	¢:		
	 components of a well-functioning constitutional republic, including concepts such as democratic 				
American		utional rights, and human			
A			6		
Government					
Week 1 March 30-April 3					
Lessons		rwsela	Videos		
esson 1- Pick 3 resources, that discuss the U.S.		nstitution, and the Political	Video 1: Madison's Three Big Ideas		
Constitution or its legacy and impact on American society. Then write a 5-8 sentence academic	Legacy of Slavery	r: The Iroquois People (First	Video 2: Eyes on the Prize: Power1 Video 3: Chicanol Fighting for Political Power		
paragraph answering the following prompt: Is it	American Democracy)	c the roquos reope (First	Video 3: Chicanol Fighting for Political Power Video 3: The Black Panthen: Vansuard of the		
the people or the U.S. Constitution that protects	Philosophers Who Influ	encoded they demonstrate	Video a: The black Partners: Vanguard of the Revolution		
the rights of American Citizens? Be sure to cite	Revolution and Constitu		Video 4: The Lemon Grove Incident		
evidence.		er": Passamaquoddy tribal			
Lesson 2- Pick 3 resources to read and explore.	constitution and sovere		Historical Texts		
Write down some facts from each resource about	Famous Speeches: Malo	olm X's "The Ballot or the	Text 1 The U.S. Constitution		
the leaders, events, or organizations that fought	Bullet		Text 2 The Bill of Rights: A Transcription		
for civil or human rights.	Teen Dreamers Advocat	te for Undocumented	Text 3 Mendez v. Westminster		
Lesson 3- Pick 3 resources to read and explore.	Immigrants.		Text 4 Brown v. Board of Ed.		
Then create a 3-column chart, with each column		Trayvon Martin and the			
representing one of the resources, and write 3-5 facts for each column.	Birth of Black Lives Mat	ber.			
Enrichment Activities	Independent C	ivic Action Project	Assessments		
Produce something creative (i.e. a poem, song,		an issue you are passionate	Construct an argument (e.g. detailed outline, poster,		
poster, collage, drawing/painting etc.) expressing	about to write a letter t	o the editor (newspaper or	essay, ppt etc.) that explains one of the following topics:		
the sentiment of an issue related to civil rights,	online publication) stating your opinion.		A) The importance of the U.S. Constitution to American		
human rights, and/or the U.S. Constitution (i.e.		political cartoon depicting	society, or B) The role that political action or court		
andmark court cases, amendments, COVID 19		d to the U.S Constitution.	litigation has had on fulfilling the guarantees of the Bill		
Crisis, climate change, Immigrant rights, Black Lives	Project idea 3-Do some		of Rights for people of color.		
Matter, femicide etc.).	movement and write a interpretation of it to be	able to educate others.			
		ocabulary			
Boycott: to engage in a concerted refusal to have de	alines with (a person	Lynching: to put to death h	v mob action without legal approval or permission.		
store or organization, etc.) to express disapproval or		chinemande on box on design of	and action and the shirt pair of his particular		
certain conditions.		Stand your ground: laws th	at allow people to respond to threats or physical force		
Divil Disobedience: refusal to obey governmental de	mands or commands as	without fear of prosecution, rather than abiding by traditional self-defense laws that			
a non-violent, usually collective means of forcing cor	cessions from the	a person under physical the	eat has a "duty to retreat."		

Segregation: The process of isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social	Sovereignty: a supreme power over a body politic which allows for freedom from external control (autonomy) and controlling influence.
intercourse.	
De Jure (Jim Crow): by right or based on laws or actions of the state.	
De Facto: being such in effect but not formally recognized.	
Litigation: the act, process, or practice of settling a dispute in the court of law.	Self-determination: free choice/determination by the people of a territorial unit of their own future and political status.
Precedent: something done or said that may serve as an example or rule to	COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program): (1956-1971) was a series of covert
authorize or justify a subsequent act of the same kind to serve as a model.	and, at times, illegal projects conducted by the US FBI aimed at surveilling, infitrating, discrediting, and disrupting American political organizations & program)

Social Studies Objective:

"Students will be able to: [identify] components of a well-functioning constitutional republic, including concepts such as democratic principles, constitutional rights, and human rights."

Resources:

"The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution", "Chicano! Fighting for Political Power", "The Constitution and the Political Legacy of Slavery", Malcom X's "The Ballot or the Bullet"

Vocabulary

"boycott," "civil disobedience," "Jim Crow," "stand your ground", "lynching," "segregation" "COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program): a series of covert and, at times, illegal projects conducted by the US FBI aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting American political organizations & program[s]."

How Can States Respond?

State Lawmakers Have 3 Broad Choices:

Inaction: Taking the path of least resistance and ignoring the accelerating spread of political ideologies being taught in public schools at taxpayer expense

Curriculum Mandates: Using more heavy-handed intervention to require or prohibit the teaching / funding of specific content in public schools

Academic Transparency: Empowering parents to hold schools accountable

How State Legislators Can Respond: Academic Transparency "Sunlight is the Best Disinfectant"

- Parents should be able to know what content awaits at nearby schools before they have to enroll their children
- Schools respond to incentives: If parents know which schools insist on pushing radical content, those schools will risk the further loss of students and their associated funding
- ✓ Schools should not be hiding content from prospective parents: Reporting broad 'curriculum' frameworks, basic textbooks, etc. is no longer enough
- It should not be harder for a parent to look up what schools are teaching than to locate complicated budget documents, financial data, etc. that schools are required to post online



De-Escalating the Curriculum Wars: A Proposal for Academic Transparency in K-12 Education



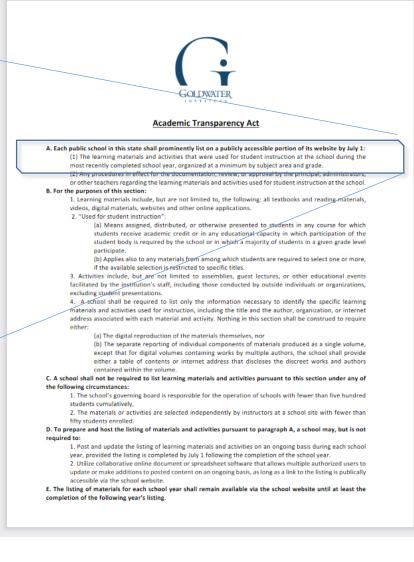
Matt Beienburg Director of Education Policy Goldwater Institute January 14, 2020

Goldwater Institute Academic Transparency Act Legislative Proposal

"Each public school shall prominently list on a publicly accessible portion of its website by July 1:

The learning materials and activities that were used for student instruction at the school during the most recently completed school year, organized at a minimum by subject area and grade...."

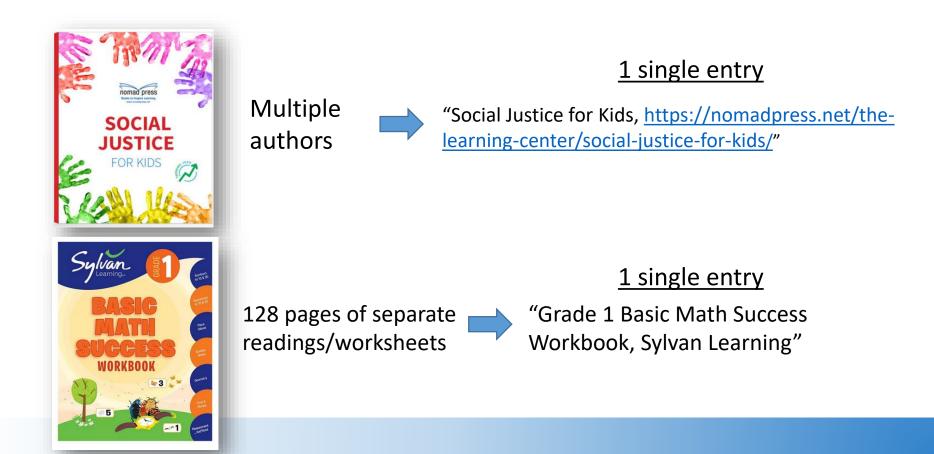




https://azlibrary.gov/azcm/about

How it Works

"A school shall be required to list only the information necessary to identify the specific learning materials and activities used for instruction, including the title and the author, organization or internet address..."



Academic Transparency Act Key Features

- Brings course content into the light in a practical, accessible way for parents
- ✓ Provides comprehensive transparency
- Doesn't interfere with teachers' ability to update lesson plans at any time during the year:
- Minimizes the additional workload required to provide transparency
- ✓ K-12 schools & universities have proven they can share course syllabi & other info online

Testimonials from Teachers

"This is a great collaborative effort for teachers and educators to find other resources that are effectively being used across the state and posting those and making them available for their colleagues.

As a former Wake County teacher, 20 years ago I provided all of this information. I turned in my lesson plans to my principal. Doing it electronically now would be so much simpler than what I was expected to do as a Wake County teacher. So all of this is stuff that I had to do as a teacher that now as a parent I would greatly appreciate."

--Kelly M., North Carolina

"I speak as an associate professor of history and I have 3 children in 8th, 5th, and 4th grades, so I come at it from both perspectives. As a teacher... it is very easy in our internal servers to upload all of our files and lesson plans and for someone to come along and grab that and post it to an internet site is far less tedious work than it might have been in previous decades. This is work that we're already doing. It's just a simple grab and re-posting..."

--Jennifer M., Wisconsin

"I profoundly support the passage of both of these bills... I have been a teacher for 16 years ...Some of the courses are 'Me and White Supremacy', 'Going Gradeless', 'Dimensions of Equity,' 'Multicultural and Social Justice Education'...These are some of the classes that our teachers are being taught and they in turn come to the classrooms...Even just getting a curriculum may not necessarily show parents what exactly is being taught if they don't also have the materials that they're teaching with."

--Marla L., Wisconsin

What Others are Saying

 "If you doubt that these transparency provisions are needed, recall that many teachers have promised to preach CRT to their students, even if that violates the law."

-- Stanley Kurtz, Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center:

 "What the critical race theory debate misses: We really don't know what's happening in our classrooms... states, districts, and school boards have less control over what gets in front of students than do Google, Pinterest, and the lesson sharing website Teachers Pay Teachers — the top three places teachers go when looking for materials"

--Robert Pondiscio, Former Teacher,

Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Academic Transparency Examples

GreatHearts

Great Hearts 6th-8th Grade Short Story List

"Rikki Tikki Tavi" | "The Monkey's Paw" | "The Gift of the Magi" | "A Sound of Thunder" | "The Lady or the Tiger?" | "Tell-Tale Heart" | "The Black Cat" | "The Casque of Amontillado" | "The Pit and the Pendulum" | "Fall of the House of Usher"

Great Hearts 6th-8th Grade Poetry List

Sonnets 15, 18, 30, 29, 60, 73, 143 by William Shakespeare | Kipling, "If" | Longfellow, "The Village Blacksmith" |
Millay, "First Fig" | Frost, "Nothing Gold Can Stay" | Wordsworth, "My heart leaps up" | Blake, "The Tyger" |
Dickinson, "'Hope' is the thing with feathers" | Dickinson, "There is no frigate like a book" | Browning, E., Sonnet 43 "How Do I Love Thee" | Milton, Sonnet 23 "On His Blindness" | Housman, "Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now" | Housman, "When I Was One and Twenty" | Hopkins, "Spring and Fall" | Frost, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" | Longfellow, "The Arrow and the Song" | Emerson, "Concord Hymn" | Burns, "A Red, Red Rose" | Tennyson, "The Charge of the Light Brigade" | Donne, "Death Be Not Proud" Herbert, "Virtue" | Hopkins, "Pied Beauty" | Byron, "She Walks in Beauty" | Keats, "To Autumn" | Whitman, "O Captain, My Captain" Yeats, "When You Are Old"

https://www.greatheartsamerica.org/great-hearts-life/great-hearts-curriculum/curriculum-overview/

Academic Transparency Example



	Clas	SS	Sea	arc	h		k		5.
OIn-Person & iCourses	Fall 2020		▼ POS	Numbe	er Search by key	yword	0	Clear Filter Advanced	
	Session		Decation		Open Classes All Classes				
American Government ▼ 8154 & Politics	7 Watson				iCourse	10/12 - 12/04(B)	3	1 of 100 🔺	Syllabus
Foundations of v 9060 Democracy	7 Barth, Power Smith	MW	3:05 PM	4:20 PM	Tempe - BA341	08/20 - 12/04(C)	3	2 of 14 ●	Syllabus
Comparative • 8149 Government	1 Kaire	MWF	11:50 AM	12:40 PM	ASU Sync	08/20 - 12/04(C)	3	75 of 198 🔵	<mark>Syllabus</mark>

Week 9: October 14 - 18 (Fall Break: no class on October 15)

Textbook, chapter 9: Courts and Criminal Justice

News article: "Attorney General Brnovich offers to help Arizona secure drug to resume executions." *Tucson.com*, July 26, 2019 (link here).

News article: "Special legislative panel looking at ways to reduce state's prison population." *Tucson.com*, August 6, 2019 (<u>link here</u>).

https://webapp4.asu.edu/bookstore/viewsyllabus/2197/93080

Academic Transparency Examples



Curriculum

In 1995, Hillsdale College introduced the *Hillsdale Academy Reference Guide* as an educational resource for those interested in drawing upon the Academy's time-tested K-12 program. Within two years, reference guides had been sold in all fifty states and more than 10 foreign countries, and schools, both old and new, were following the Hillsdale model.

In keeping with the Academy's mission to be a model for American education reform, Hillsdale College now offers the complete Hillsdale Academy Reference Guide online. Parents and educators can access the Academy's K-12 curriculum, browse through the student/parent handbook, and learn how to implement the Academy's school culture. The contents include the following:

- Introduction
- School Culture
- Curriculum (K-8 or 9-12)
- Weekly Outlines (K-8)
- Course Syllabi (9-12)
- Reading Lists
- Bibliography
- Additional Titles List
- Publishers List
- Parents' Handbook
- Faculty Handbook

Academic Transparency Example



1ST TRIMESTER

Subject: Literature in America from the time of the Puritans through the Revolution
 Themes: What is an American?; Narratives of Massachusetts and Virginia; Characteristics of Puritan writing and lifestyle;
 Contributions of Puritans to American institutions; Impact of documents, speeches and letters of Revolutionary leaders

WEEK TOPIC and READINGS

- 1-2 Crèvecoeur, "What Is An American?" in McMichael, pp. 350-358 Modern American short stories, in Fuller, pp. 9-112
- 3-5 Narratives, histories and poetry from Puritans and early Americans: The General History of Virginia, in McMichael, pp. 24-35 Of Plumouth Plantation. in McMichael. pp. 54-67

WEEK TOPIC and READINGS

- 3-5 cont. Poetry of Anne Bradstreet and Edward Taylor, in McMichael, pp. 91-124 Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," in McMichael, pp. 172-184 Selections from Sarah Kemble Knight and William Byrd, in Fuller, p. 438 and 443 (if time allows)
- 6-8 Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter (entire)
- 7-10 Franklin, Autobiography and selections from Poor Richard's Almanac, in McMichael, pp. 199-322
- 11-12 Letters, documents and speeches from Revolutionary leaders and writers, in McMichael, pp. 339-395 (Paine, Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Wheatley, Freneau and Henry)

Academic Transparency Example



Humane Letters • Grade 11 • American History

HANDOUTS:

- 1. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. The Complete Short Stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1959.
- 2. "Virginia Declaration of Rights," in Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner, eds. *The Founders' Constitution*, Vol. I. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund, 1987: 6-7.
- 3. Jefferson, Thomas. From the Minutes of the Board of Visitors, University of Virginia, 1822-1825, Report to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, in Merrill D. Peterson, ed. *Thomas Jefferson: Writings.* New York: The Library of America, 1984: 479.
- 28. Coolidge, Calvin. "Address of President Coolidge at the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 5, 1926." Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1926. (This document may also be found at <u>www.memory.loc.gov</u>, the official Web site of the Library of Congress.)
- Locke, Alain. "The New Negro"; Hughes, Langston. "When the Negro Was in Vogue"; Johnson, Charles S. "The Negro Renaissance and Its Significance"; McKay, Claude. "If We Must Die"; Cullen, Countee. "Yet Do I Marvel"; Johnson, James Weldon. "O Black and Unknown Bards," in David L. Lewis, ed. The Harlem Renaissance Reader. New York: Penguin, 1994: 46-51; 77-81; 206-218; 244; 282; 290.
- Roosevelt, Franklin D. Commonwealth Club Address, "New Conditions Impose New Requirements upon Government and Those Who Conduct Government," in *The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, Vol. I, "The Genesis of the New Deal," 1928-1932. New York: Russell and Russell, 1969: 742-756. (Out of print)

Example District Tucson Unified, AZ

MATERIALS TO BE USED WITH GRADE 4 ARIZONA: GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS EMC -- 225-4783 www.tusd1.org/contents/depart/emc/index.asp

emc@tusd1.org

BOOKS

	Beene
155.5 Ri	How Jane Won: 55 Successful Women Share How They Grew from Ordinary Girls to Extraordinary Women.
305.897 Ob	Traveling Indian Arizona.
320.9 Ke	A Brief Introduction to Arizona History and Government.
325.1 Sh	Augustus F. Sherman: Ellis Island Portraits, 1905-1920.
330 Go	Economics and You.
330 Ka	Growing Money: A Complete Investing Guide for Kids.
342.73 Be	Being and American: Exploring the Ideals that Unite Us. (Also Available in Spanish)

EXHIBITS

E 32 Drawer 46	Apple's "Think Different" Posters. (Cesar Chavez)				
E 189 See EMC	Seated Lincoln.				
E 271 Row 2 Shelf 21	The Ellis Island Collection: Artifacts from the Immigrant Experience.				
E 272 Row 2 Shelf 29	Images of Liberty.				
E 273 Row 2 Shelf 29	History of the Statue of Liberty.				

VIDEOS AND DVD'S

NUMBER	TITLE	LEVEL	TIME
MP 5180 VHS	The Living Constitution. (Also Available in Spanish)	I-M	16 Min.
MP 5778 VSH	Fox on the Job. <i>(Reading Rainbow)</i>	P-I	29 Min.
MP 6076 VHS	Island of Hope, Island of Tears.	I-M-S	28 Min.
MP 6284 VHS	Rights and Responsibilities. (Also Available in Spanish)	P-I-M	20 Min.
MP 6415 VHS	Our Federal Government: The Legislative Branch.	I-M	22 Min.

TUSD AZ Gov & Econ. 6/21/12