

Social Studies PLC eBlast

February 2023

Volume III, Number 2

Hello Everyone!

Act 35 Update

Act 35 reporting opened in the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal (FRCPP) for the 2021-2022 school year on September 14, 2022, with a reporting deadline of December 1, 2022. If you have not yet submitted your report, please do so at your earliest convenience in order to meet legislative requirements.

The [Assessment of Civics Knowledge Toolkit](#) details the legislative requirements and the reporting responsibilities.

If you are experiencing issues where you are unable to submit after entering in your data, please check that you have the proper “submit” role in the ADMIN area of FRCPP. If the Act 35 Civic Knowledge survey isn’t appearing when you log in, it is because it needs to be added by a localadmin user in your LEA. The [FRCPP information page](#) may assist if you encounter submission issues.

February is Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Several institutions provide free resources and programs supporting Black History Month and Black History throughout U.S. History instruction.

- [Blackhistorymonth.gov](#) - A joint website of the Library of Congress, National Archives, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institute and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- [National Museum of African American History & Culture Educator Resources](#)
- [National Archives Teaching Resources for Black History](#)
- [Smithsonian's Explorer - Black History Month](#)
- [National Archives: African American Heritage](#)

Foundation for Economic Education

Founded in 1946, Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) is the oldest libertarian, free-market organization in the U.S. Created to study and advance the freedom philosophy, FEE has published or hosted lectures by some of the finest minds of the modern age. Today, FEE’s mission is to inspire, educate, and connect Generation Z with the economic, ethical, and legal principles of a free society (e.g. individual liberty, free-market economics, entrepreneurship, private property, high moral character, and limited government).

FEE reaches the rising generation with the ideas of liberty online (e.g. social media, podcasts, videos, articles, etc.) and in the classroom. In the classroom, FEE offers one-of-a-kind educational workshops for students and professional development opportunities for social studies teachers. In addition, FEE’s online learning center provides classroom materials and resources (e.g. comprehensive lesson plans, engaging activities, interactive quizzes) for teachers to use. FEE’s offerings are always provided at no cost to students, teachers, or their schools.

To learn more or to schedule a professional development event or student workshop, please contact Derek D'Angelo, Curriculum Development Director, at ddangelo@FEE.org (professional development) or Sarah Vannatta, Senior Outreach Associate, at sannatta@fee.org (student workshops). To create a free Learning Center account and gain immediate access to all of FEE's classroom materials and resources, please visit <http://fee.org/learning-center>

Teaching The Holocaust - A Workshop For Teachers

This workshop for teachers focuses on the role of American soldiers as important witnesses to the Holocaust. Scheduled for February 10, 2023, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, teachers will explore various resources and discuss approaches to teaching the Holocaust and helping students learn about difficult topics. Act 48 credit will be available.

Participants may attend in person at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013, or via Zoom. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.

Active Learning Strategies to Engage Students in the History Classroom

Join Lynne O'Hara from NHD and Cheryl Lederle from the Library of Congress to learn some active learning strategies to integrate sources from the Library of Congress into your classroom. Register [here](#).

PBS Learning Media U.S. History Collection

Expand students' understanding of U.S. History with culturally inclusive resources that bring the major people, events, and trends in history alive, while integrating often untold stories into the curriculum. Curated clips of trusted PBS programs and a diverse array of other media and interactive resources develop students' historical thinking skills while broadening their appreciation of history's multiple perspectives and complexity. Check it out [here](#).

The Case Method Institute

The [Case Method Institute](#) is offering two upcoming PD opportunities (*entirely free of charge*) for high school social studies teachers to learn to teach by the case method with [Harvard Professor David Moss](#): a Zoom-based workshop on February 11, 2023 and a fully self-paced, asynchronous option.

As part of the PD program, teachers receive free access to a [full set of twenty-two cases](#) and the original teaching plans from Professor Moss's Harvard College course on the "History of American Democracy," along with ongoing planning and implementation guidance from CMI's Teacher Support Team. Click [this link](#) for more information on this no cost opportunity.

White House History Teacher Institute

The White House History Teacher Institute is a weeklong professional development program that explores American history through the lens of the White House and fosters collaboration among teachers to bring stories in White House history into their own classrooms. We welcome K-12 teachers from many subjects including history, government, civics, social studies, language arts, and fine arts. In Summer 2023, two iterations of the Institute—one from July 10-14 and another from July 17-21 will be offered. Participating teachers receive free, shared housing at a local hotel, a participation stipend, and reimbursement of some travel expenses. Click [here](#) for more information.

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge connects teachers to extraordinary scholars and thinkers in graduate seminars. Teachers obtain numerous resources they can implement immediately in the classroom while developing a strong network of fellow educators who help train the next generation of young citizen leaders. Read about the numerous seminars and workshops available and register [here](#).

The 1787 Prize

Applications are open for The 1787 Prize, an essay contest open to all high school students in grades 11-12. An essay may be submitted with up to three (3) student co-authors. There is a maximum of one (1) submission per high school. [Learn about the requirements, timeline, and prompt here](#).

African American History Through Primary Sources

[The Bill of Rights Institute](#) recently launched a free resource for grades 9-12. [The Plainest Demands of Justice: Documents for Dialogue on the African-American Experience](#) is a seven-lesson resource that utilizes primary source analysis to explore the efforts to realize the founding principles of liberty, equality, and justice by exploring critical periods in African American history. A culminating assessment has students choose a topic to research and present to make connections to how the work to ensure a society aligned with Founding principles continues in the present day.

The Rural Experience in America Professional Development Program

Funded by a grant from the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program, the National Council for History Education (NCHE) announced Year 2 of The Rural Experience in America program. The program is a series of free professional development opportunities to support K-12 teachers focusing on this year's theme, Rural Lives in Context.

Options in year two of the program include:

- Asynchronous learning using primary sources through the Library of Congress
- Online colloquia focused on the theme: Rural Lives in Context
- Onsite colloquium in July 2023

Interested educators can learn more on the [NCHE website](#).

Visual Arts Resources for the History Classroom from EDSITEment

EDSITEment offers several resources for educators interested in incorporating visual arts in the history classroom, including:

- Videos, background essays, and more from the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded [Smarthistory resource](#).
- The [Picturing America collection](#) includes resources like the work of Romare Bearden, an artist inspired by his family's experience of the Great Migration.
- Collection on [Arts of the Afro-Atlantic Diaspora](#), developed in collaboration with the National Gallery of Art.
 - This collection includes a virtual gallery of paintings and sculptures with background information, discussion prompts and lesson plans for using visual arts to teach about the transatlantic slave trade.

Women and the American Story

Women & the American Story (WAMS) is a free curriculum website from the New-York Historical Society. WAMS [connects educators with classroom resources](#) that illuminate diverse women's contributions to the American past.

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Need new ideas on how to teach American history? Search this database of plans to discover plans aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards (SAS). Big Ideas, Essential Question, Concepts and Competencies are outlined for you.

Unit plans link to lesson plans that fit class periods. Each lesson includes learning objectives, vocabulary, and background material for students and teachers as well as primary sources from their collection. [Check it out here.](#)

C-SPAN Classroom's Bell Ringers

[Bell Ringers](#) is designed to enhance social studies curriculums by providing teachers with brief video clips of C-SPAN programming. You will find the clips separated into categories commonly studied in social studies curriculums. Each clip contains a brief summary, key vocabulary terms, and related discussion questions.

Bell ringers can be used to start class, as an in-class activity, or as a homework assignment to introduce a new topic. You can further explore a topic by using one of the activities on the C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations page with your students. However you use them, Bell Ringers will connect your students with real world examples of civics in action.

Slingshot Challenge From National Geographic

Nat Geo is challenging 13-18 year olds to create a one-minute video with their solution to our current environmental problems. From cleaning our air to reviving our ocean, we want to see what students are doing, or what students think we all should be doing, to create a better world for everyone. [Learn more here.](#)

MyImpact Challenge

[Check out this civic engagement contest](#) hosted by the Bill of Rights Institute. The goal is simple: foster a robust understanding of citizenship and get students active in their communities now! Student service projects can win up to \$10,000, with \$40,000 in total prizes available to students and teachers.

103rd Annual National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Conference Call for Proposals

National Council for the Social Studies invites social studies educators to submit a proposal to present at the 103rd NCSS Annual Conference on December 1-3, 2023, in Nashville, TN. The deadline for submitting proposals is February 27, 2023. Interested educators can learn more and [submit a proposal on the NCSS website.](#)

Thank you for subscribing to the SAS Social Studies PLC and for all you do every day for the students in Pennsylvania!

Don McCrone
dmccrone@pa.gov