

Hello Everyone!

## ***America250PA Toolkit available on SAS***

[This new America250PA toolkit](#) provides access to educational materials on the upcoming celebration of Pennsylvania's leading role in the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States on July 4, 2026. The toolkit includes videos, lesson plans, and classroom resources adaptable for virtual or in-person learning.

## ***From The Civics Center***

Applications are now open for [The Civics Center's 2026 High School Summer Internship](#).

This six-week paid virtual program is designed for high school students passionate about youth civic engagement. The Center hopes you'll share this opportunity with students in your networks who are ready to make their voices heard and help others do the same.

What interns will do:

- Train in voter registration, interpersonal organizing, community exploration, and zinemaking and art as tools for civic engagement
- Participate in the creation of video content and social media materials to support TCC's communications
- Learn how to run and support effective voter registration drives and help train local youth to lead drives in the fall

Program details:

- Who: Current high school students nationwide
- Format: Fully virtual (6 hours/week, with independent work in their communities)
- Duration: Six weeks, starting early July 2026
- Pay: \$17.50/hour

Applications are accepted through May 25, 2026.

## ***From The Center for Civic Education***

Hot off the press and just in time for the upcoming elections, explore the Center for Civic Education's newest Civic Inquiry: [Civic Participation and Voter Turnout](#).

In this engaging, hands-on lesson, students investigate the health of our democracy by analyzing graphs, charts, and other visual data on voter turnout in the United States. Working collaboratively, they develop solutions while considering multiple perspectives and shared civic values. Centered on the inquiry question, “Does low voter turnout in the United States signal a problem with democracy?”, this experience builds critical thinking, collaboration, and civic engagement skills for informed citizenship.

## ***From The Bill of Rights Institute***

As educators begin planning for professional development opportunities this fall, the Bill of Rights Institute is offering a series of engaging remote training sessions designed to support K–12 classrooms with practical strategies, high-quality primary sources, and ready-to-use instructional resources.

[Each one-hour online session](#) will provide educators with tools and ideas that can make an immediate impact in the classroom while deepening student engagement with history, civics, inquiry, and constitutional principles.

## ***New Human Progress Content from Sphere: All Roads Lead to Rome***

“All roads lead to Rome” may be a familiar phrase, but what made Rome a destination worth reaching in the first place? Educators can help students explore that question through [Sphere’s newest Human Progress lesson](#), Rome, which examines how Roman roads helped create the openness, connectivity, and innovation that fueled the empire’s success.

Written by Sean Kinnard and based on the original essay by Chelsea Follett, the lesson invites students to investigate the engineering and infrastructure that supported Rome’s political and economic growth — and shaped its lasting influence on the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Educators can also pair this lesson with Sphere’s Peak Human: Renaissance Italy lesson, inspired by Johan Norberg, to help students trace the region’s development and progress across centuries.

Additional Centers of Progress and Heroes of Progress lessons are expected in the coming months, offering even more opportunities to connect history, innovation, and civic understanding in the classroom.

### ***iCivics Youth Fellowship Applications Open***

The Carnegie Youth Fellowship at iCivics is now [accepting applications for the 2026–2027 cohort](#). This paid fellowship brings together high school students from across the country to explore civic issues, exchange perspectives, and lead meaningful change. Encourage your students to apply by May 31.

### ***New Interactive Timeline: The Cold War from Retro Report***

Students can explore key events, foreign policy decisions and moments of resistance that defined the Cold War, drawing on Retro Report documentaries, archival materials and primary sources that bring the period to life. [This new interactive timeline](#) spans nearly five decades of geopolitical rivalry, nuclear brinkmanship and global conflicts, tracing the period from the post-World War II era through the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

### ***Teach about Freedom of the Press with the News Literacy Project***

Freedom of the press continues to dominate headlines and social media conversations, leaving many students with important questions about the role of journalism, the First Amendment, and the limits of government power.

Can law enforcement seize a journalist’s reporting materials? Should media personalities provide equal time to opposing political candidates? Questions like these offer powerful opportunities for classroom discussion and civic learning.

To support these conversations, educators can explore [a new collection of free news literacy resources](#) focused on teaching about freedom of the press. The hub includes classroom-ready materials designed to help students think critically about media, constitutional rights, and the responsibilities of a free press in a democratic society.

## ***America 250 Lessons from Mikva***

The story of the United States is, at its core, a story of civic action. When American colonists challenged the authority of King George III, they did more than voice frustration—they took action. Their most enduring act was the creation of the Declaration of Independence, a document that transformed protest into purpose. Written 250 years ago, it has served as a beacon for freedom movements worldwide, helping ignite the American War of Independence and laying the foundation for the first modern democracy.

In recognition of this milestone, [a new series of free America250 lessons](#) invites students to read the Declaration deeply and reflect on its lasting impact and relevance.

At Mikva Challenge, there is a strong belief that young people care deeply about their communities and possess the insight and power to lead. These lessons aim to help students see themselves as part of a long legacy of changemakers, including the nation’s founders.

For those new to the Mikva curriculum, this series offers a welcoming entry point. For those already familiar, it reinforces key elements—especially the culminating assessment that encourages students to “get on their soapbox” and advocate for an issue they care about, effectively crafting their own declaration.

Educators are encouraged to explore these lessons and learn more about accessing the full Mikva Challenge curriculum, as well as opportunities for professional learning and student voice initiatives, by contacting [curriculum@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:curriculum@mikvachallenge.org).

## ***May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month***

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month pays “tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success” (Library of Congress). Consider using the following video-based teaching tools from [C-SPAN Classroom’s Asian American Pacific Islander History Featured Resources site](#) to highlight important people, topics, and events as you recognize the month.

## ***Summer Courses from Echoes and Reflections***

### **Foundations of Holocaust Education - Course Dates: June 1-28**

[Gain an overview of Echoes & Reflections resources and pedagogy](#) to teach the Holocaust responsibly and effectively introduce this complex topic into your classroom.

#### **Course Details:**

- Three interactive modules; approximately **7 hours** to complete in total.
- Proceed at your own pace each week, be supported by an instructor, and enjoy interaction with other educators.
- Complete all three modules for a **7-hour** certificate.
- Final module includes additional time to complete optional final project for a **10-hour** certificate.

Graduate credit available through the University of the Pacific.

### **Confronting the "Final Solution": Teaching the Holocaust with Care and Courage – Course Dates June 8-21**

The Final Solution of the Jewish Question” was the Nazi policy to murder all of the Jews. Explore primary resources and responsible pedagogy to teach this difficult topic with confidence in the classroom.

#### **Course Details:**

- One module; **5 hours** to complete in total.
- Proceed at your own pace, be supported by an instructor, and enjoy interaction with other educators.

NOTE: Sites identified here have been reviewed by the content advisor; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms.

## ***From C-SPAN Classroom: Bridging the Gap between STEM and Social Studies***

One of their newest collections of resources helps bridge the gap between social studies and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Check out the following sampling of resources from [their STEM Resources Featured Resources site](#), and make sure to bookmark your favorites for use each year!

## ***2026 Belfer National Conference for Holocaust Education***

2026 BELFER NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum | Free Online Conference for Educators in June

You are invited to the [2026 Belfer National Conference for Holocaust Education](#), taking place June 22-24. At this free, online professional learning conference, educators will explore the latest practices for delivering accurate and meaningful Holocaust education to all students. Get questions answered by Museum historians and experienced educators through more interactive sessions. Plus free books and resources (while supplies last).

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

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