

Scholar Panel: Is a Shared National Narrative Possible?

Tuesday, March 1
7:00-8:30pm ET

Edna Greene Medford,
Samuel Goldman,
Madeline Hsu

Three historians will introduce varying perspectives and texts to explore the concept of a shared national narrative, barriers to consensus, and how we can continue to evolve as a pluralistic, diverse society. This session will include opportunity for small groups to discuss the ideas put forth by each scholar with colleagues from schools across the country.

What Binds Us Together: Tools and Resources for Teaching the American Story

Wednesday, March 2
7:00-8:30pm ET

Rachel Humphries
Bill of Rights Institute

What are the values, virtues and principles that can weave together the American people? Is "Out of Many, One" a realistic concept? Explore strategies and resources that you can use in your classroom to help students explore what it means to be an American. You'll learn about the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap inquiry-based approach to teaching civics and history, and leave with new and easy-to-use resources from the Bill of Rights Institute.

The Text & Context of the Declaration of Independence: What Can We Learn From Jefferson's Rough Draft?

Thursday, March 3
7:00-8:30pm ET

Adam Seagrave
Arizona State
University

The Declaration of Independence stated foundational political principles that have provided a creedal momentum to American political development throughout our history. But what do these political principles, such as "all men are created equal," actually mean? And how do they relate to apparently contradictory policies and practices--such as African American enslavement--with which they have coexisted for much of American history? In this session we will explore these questions with the aid of an often overlooked supporting text: Thomas Jefferson's Rough Draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Frederick Douglass: American Critic or Patriot?

Sunday, March 6
7:00-8:30pm ET

Lucas Morel
Washington and Lee
University

Frederick Douglass's 1852 speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" is among the greatest speeches in American history for its powerful analysis of the enormity of slavery in light of the founding principles of America. It marked a shift in Douglass's thinking about the American founders and the Constitution. This webinar will examine his 1852 speech and discuss what it can teach us today about how to understand America's past.

Learning from Sacred Stories: Faith Leaders on the Quest for a Shared Narrative

Monday, March 7
7:00-8:30pm ET

Rabbi Yehuda Sarna
Dr. Heather Ohaneson

Within every community of faith there are shared stories that weave together the beliefs, values, and purposes of a people. What can we learn from how different faith traditions derive meaning from their core stories? What can we apply to the American context, and the pursuit of a shared story? In this session you'll learn from two faith leaders and engage with religious texts that can illuminate the potential of a shared American narrative.

Art as Classroom Catalyst: Fostering Complex Conversations about U.S. History with Creativity

Tuesday, March 8
7:00-8:30pm ET

Elizabeth Diament
Julie Carmean
National Gallery of Art

How can integrating works of art into the classroom provide opportunities to explore and grapple with multiple perspectives on American history? Join National Gallery of Art museum educators Liz Diament and Julie Carmean to look closely and discuss two powerful artworks that focus on the Native American experience historically and today. Using thinking routines from Arts as Civic Commons by Project Zero, we will model teaching tools to facilitate complex conversations in the classroom.

Phillis Wheatley: The Audacity of Poetry

Wednesday, March 9
7:00-8:30pm ET

April Langley
University of Missouri

This seminar will consider the eighteenth-century poet's works as part of a national narrative of hope that is inaugurated during an era of colonization and enslavement as beckoning of full freedom and liberty for all its citizens. While history tells a less hopeful tale of the plight of the enslaved, the poet's audaciousness is part of an American narrative that refuses to concede anything less than full liberty and citizenship for African Americans, echoing sacred and secular hopes of a better world.

Understanding News Media Bias: Empowering Students with Essential Skills

Thursday, March 10
7:00-8:30pm ET

Peter Adams
News Literacy Project

People frequently perceive and allege bias in news coverage, but what does this really mean? What makes a piece of news biased, and who decides? What role do our own biases play in our perceptions of bias? In this session we'll help in ways that controversial, complex topic in ways that empower students to meaningfully evaluate the fairness and impartiality of news coverage.

Reframing Divisive Topics through Dialogue: Structures for Deeper, Nuanced, and More Personal Conversations

Sunday, March 13
4:00-5:30pm ET

Scott Silk
Essential Partners

At the heart of this workshop is an experience of Reflective Structured Dialogue - an approach to difficult conversations that has been used around the world in classrooms and communities for 30 years. This dialogue will lead you through questions about your own understanding of the American story. After the dialogue you will discuss the impact of certain conversational structures and how you might use them in your classroom to reframe how you teach and discuss divisive topics.

Community of Practice: Integrating our Learning

Sunday, March 13
7:00-8:30pm ET

Tiphonie Shoemaker
Civic Spirit

So, how might we teach the story of America? Join fellow symposium participants to process, synthesize and connect about your collective experience. In this collaborative session, we will reflect on our learning, make plans for putting new content and pedagogy into practice, further relationships with new educators and learn ways to stay connected to Civic Spirit.

