



Election day at Drew as students fulfill their civic duty by voting for school rules.

APS Opportunities

The DBQ Project Training

Training will be held for Civics, USI, USII, World Geography, and WHII teachers. The DBQ project includes training and resources that focuses on document based questions to give students the opportunity to investigate history from a variety of perspectives. The flexible pedagogy supports discussion and debate as students clarify their own ideas and write evidence-based arguments to deepen their understanding of history, while building reading, thinking, and writing skills. Each secondary school will receive a binder of the DBQ resources.

The workshop is **Thursday, Dec. 3rd**, 8-3:30pm, Site: TBD. See your Social Studies Lead teacher about registering.

Resources

2015 Virginia Council of Social Studies Fall Conference

This conference was huge success and APS had a strong turn out with ten of our teachers presenting at the conference. APS presenters included: Lauren Gautier Elkins, Patricia Carlson, Sara Winter, Jackie Rogers, Nita Wade, Tiffany Mitchell, Tony Philippon, Jennifer Burgin, Dawn Amin-Arsala, and Tom Lenihan. Free resources including handouts and presentations from this conference are available at the conferences program link. <https://sites.google.com/site/vcsse2015/home>

Pass the Past

["Pass The Past"](#) is **free** app review game to prepare for SOL exams with a focus on World, United States and Virginia history, civics, and geography.

Brotherhood Discussion Guide

Written by A. B. Westrick, the novel *Brotherhood* offers a revealing glimpse of life during the often overlooked Reconstruction era. A great addition to any classroom library, this book offers a look into the political and social upheaval after the Civil War from the perspectives of two brothers.

[Click here](#) for the discussion guide.

eMediaVA

[eMediaVA](#) is Virginia's statewide digital media distribution system featuring the best purpose-built educational content available. Brought to you by Virginia's Public Media Stations* and PBS, eMediaVA is constantly evolving to better meet the needs of Virginia's teachers and students. eMediaVA is free for all Virginia teachers and students! Contact your ITC for login and password information.

The Choices Program

The Choices program was developed at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies and focuses on inquiry based learning. These links are to free online resources for secondary teachers of World Geography, US History, and World History II.

[Scholars Online Videos](#) - These brief (3-4 minute) videos feature top scholars answering specific questions in their fields of expertise. These videos can help give students and teachers a clear, yet nuanced understanding of complex issues.

[Teaching with the News](#) - These are online curriculum materials and lessons to connect classroom content to the headlines in the news. Topics cover a range of foreign policy and international issues.

[Supplemental Material](#) – Within each of their curriculum units, the choices program offers supplemental materials like graphic organizers, maps and photographs, online lessons, and a list of recommended books.

Student Opportunities

The World of 7 Billion student video contest – Population Education

Population Education is currently accepting video entries from middle and high school students for the [World of 7 Billion student video contest](#). The deadline for submissions is **February 25, 2016**. This year's challenge: Create a short video (up to 60 seconds) about human population growth that highlights one of the following global challenges: Deforestation, Public Health OR Water Scarcity. All videos must include a) how population growth impacts the issue, and b) at least one idea for a [sustainable solution](#). Participating teachers are eligible to receive complimentary classroom resources when 10 or more students participate. 18 student winners will receive up to \$1,000 in cash prizes.

Global Folklorist Challenge

Looking for a new opportunity for your students? The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage is sponsoring a Global Folklorist Challenge. The challenge involves students researching, documenting, and presenting the unique cultures and traditions that make up their communities and neighborhoods by creating short videos. There are individual and team submission categories, Open to legal residents, age 8-18 at time of entry. The submission deadline is **November 30**, more details can be found [here](#).

Casting Call to all High School Students – Signature Theatre Production – 295N

Looking at the history of race in America through the lens of Baltimore's troubled history, **295N** takes its audience from Frederick Douglass through the first sit-in protests in the nation to the present day. This exciting world premiere play by Signature's Director of New Works, Joe Calarco, promises to continue Signature in the Schools' proud legacy of challenging political theatre, featuring a cast of student actors and crew members, led by a team of professional directors and designers.

Currently they are casting for three roles:

James—16-18yo. African American. Good in school. A deep thinker. Named after James Baldwin and he's proud of the fact. Dabbles in poetry.

Malik --- 16-18yo. African American. Enraged by the killing of young black men like himself and determined to do something about it.

Tiana – 16-18yo. African American. Deeply religious. Wants to preach but the events of the play causes her to doubt her faith.

Students that are interested in this opportunity should contact David Zobel at Signature Theatre directly (zobelld@sigtheatre.org) to make arrangements for an interview/audition.

Strong Men & Women in Virginia History - 2016 Student Writing Contest

High school students in Virginia are invited to honor outstanding African Americans by participating in Dominion Resources' and the Library of Virginia's Strong Men & Women in Virginia History student writing contest. Four winning essays will be chosen, one from each of the four regions in Virginia that Dominion serves.

Students must submit their 400-word essay by **Friday, Nov. 13, 2015**, for a chance to win an Apple iPad Air and \$1,000 for your school. More details about this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Save the Date for Regional History Day Contest!

History Day is for students grades 6 through 12. Students complete an individual or group project that relates to the year's theme in one of five categories: Historical Paper, Website, Documentary, Exhibit, or Performance. The regional competition will be March 5, 2016, hosted by Mount Vernon High School.

Online registration is opens **Jan. 10 and closes Feb. 22, 2016**. For more information about how to get started and rules, visit <http://www.nhd.org/contest.htm> NHD has posted videos about every entry type. Visit <http://www.nhd.org/classroom-connection/google-hangouts-and-webinars/> for more information—it's a great place to start if you have questions about a category after reading the rule book.

Teacher Opportunities

EdCamp NoVA in Ashburn, VA

[EdCamp NoVA](#) is a new and exciting way to interact with peers to leverage our collective knowledge. This is a day to tackle your challenges, and develop new strategies alongside your peers. You'll connect with others during informal focused conversations on topics of mutual interest and value to you. EdCamp NoVA offers fixed unconference sessions based on ideas generated by the group. This free EdCamp is Saturday, **November 21, 2015, 9-4pm** at Eagle Ridge Middle School - 42901 Waxpool Road Ashburn, VA 20148

Weekend with Washington Program – George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate

Open to Virginia teachers, grades 3-12, this three-day residential program at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate runs **January 15-17, 2015**. Teachers will have the chance to engage in active discussions of 18th-century history with top historians, explore Mount Vernon through interactive workshops and tours, and more. This program is fully funded and accepted teachers will reside on the grounds at Mt. Vernon.

Application deadline is **December 14, 2015**. Visit www.mountvernon.org/vaweekend for more information.

Teacher Workshop on the Passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

The Capitol Visitor Center is hosting a workshop featuring a talk by Kate Scott, Associate Historian for the US Senate, followed by a discussion about the role that activists, members of Congress, and President Lyndon Johnson played in the final passage of this historic bill.

The workshop will be Saturday, **Nov. 14th** from 9am-1pm. To make a reservations or for more information, contact education@visitthecapitol.gov or call 202.593.1868.

Conferences

National Council for the Social Studies

NCSS 96th Annual Conference will be in **Washington, DC, Dec. 2-4, 2016**. This national conference with more than 4,000 attendees comes to DC every four years. Attend the conference to gain new ideas, resources, and skills in social studies education. [Registration](#) opens in June and call for proposals begins in **January**. More info will be shared later.

Summer Opportunities

Summer Study Tour to Germany – Goethe Institute

Experience is what the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP) is all about. The study tour's emphasis is on contemporary German issues relating especially to the political system, economy, culture, education, and environmental sustainability. Additional themes of note include the legacy of the Holocaust, German unification, and European integration. These study tours are designed to provide a comprehensive perspective of modern Germany.

Knowledge of the German language is **not** a requirement. Answers to other FAQs can be found on the [TOP website](#). Application including all attachments, postmarked on or before **January 25, 2016**.

Social Studies Snapshots is intended for elementary and secondary Social Studies Staff to communicate items of importance and interest in a timely matter. If you have an item you would like to include in *Social Studies Snapshot*, please forward it to Diana Jordan (diana.jordan@apsva.us). *Social Studies Snapshots* is distributed the second and fourth Friday of the month. The content of this publication comes from a variety of sources. APS is not responsible for any inaccuracies in resources provided outside the district.