



THE IDEA OF AMERICA™

Colonial Williamsburg®

Teaching Civic Engagement through American History

8:00 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**

8:30 a.m. **MODULE 1: The Great Debate**
Introductory PowerPoint & Activity

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Examine the theoretical and practical components around which *The Idea of America* program was created.
- Identify the value tensions and the role they play in the Great Debate.
- Analyze and explain the multiple meanings inherent in each of the program's eight values.

9:30 a.m. **MODULE 2: Enduring Themes throughout American History**
Timeline Activity

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Explore historical events and themes that have been a part of America's history throughout the centuries.
- Demonstrate how debates over the same values recur in different times, places, and contexts in American history.
- Describe how shifting toward a particular American value tends to alter the balance with its countervailing value, and explain the significance of these value tensions.

10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **MODULE 3: The American Protest Tradition (customizable content)**
Sample Case Study

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Identify the components of one case study in *The Idea of America*.
- Describe the different kinds of protest methods used to voice dissent.
- Analyze the extensive tradition of protest and dissent in American history.
- Discuss the ethics involved in protesting perceived wrongs and injustices and its effect on American democracy.

11:45 a.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **MODULE 4: Getting to Know *The Idea of America***
Scavenger Hunt

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Identify and use the different components of *The Idea of America* within the Learning Management System.
- Explore the variety of case study activities included in *The Idea of America*.
- Create lesson plans aligned with state standards using the Learning Management System.

2:00 p.m. **MODULE 5: Current Events/Virtual Republic**
It's In the News

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Describe how the Current Events/Virtual Republic website encourages civil debate, political compromise, and a historical perspective to resolve contentious issues in America today.
- Explain the value tension(s) and their role in the discussion of current events
- Engage in civil debate
- Discuss how civic engagement is vital to the nation's health.

3:00 p.m. **Wrap-up & Questions**

3:30 p.m. **Conclude**