



North Carolina Essential Standards Social Studies Elective Turning Points in American History

This course would emphasize, in greater depth, 10-15 key turning points in American History. These turning points would be “hinge” events in our nation’s history, caused by, and subsequently contributing to, major social, cultural, political, and/or economic events. Turning points chosen for this course do not need to be events that have been popularly discussed in the standard United States History survey course. They should be “off-centered” to allow students an opportunity to study, in depth, a potentially fresh topic in United States History. Thus, the Mexican War could be a turning point of emphasis, instead of a better known war, such as the Civil War.

More importantly, how are the two wars interrelated? The continuum of the turning point timeline should have “ripple effects” between each point. So, students when studying the effects of the Mexican War should see a relationship between subsequent events and the next turning point studied. Thus, how did events surrounding the Mexican war help create the beginning of the Civil War? Conversely, the Mexican War should also be studied as an effect of the previous turning point.

These turning points when considered chronologically should ultimately provide a narrative of United States history. A major element of each turning point should be an understanding of historical methods and the use of historical inquiry. Students should essentially become historians to better understand and appreciate the narrative of a people, a nation, and a world. .

(Possible Turning Points: 9/11, Roanoke Island/Jamestown Settlement, Salem Witch Trials, Proclamation of 1763, Election of 1800, Invention of the Cotton Gin, The Liberator/Nat Turner's Rebellion, The Mexican War, The Compromise of 1877, Chicago's World Fair, McKinley's Assassination, The 19th Amendment, The Scopes-Monkey Trial, The New Deal Coalition, The Little Rock 9, 1968, The Fall of the Berlin Wall)

Turning Points in American History

Note on Numbering: **H**–History

History			
	Essential Standard	Clarifying Objectives	
12.H.1	Analyze various turning points in American history in terms of their development and implications.	12.H.1.1	Analyze specific turning points in terms of multiple causation.
		12.H.1.2	Analyze specific turning points in terms of the interaction between people, places, and time.
		12.H.1.3	Analyze specific turning points in terms of motives, beliefs, interests, hopes, fears and their consequences.
		12.H.1.4	Analyze turning points using multiple perspectives of various individuals and groups.
		12.H.1.5	Evaluate the extent to which economic, social, cultural and political factors of specific turning points impact the historical narrative of the United States.
		12.H.1.6	Analyze the historical narrative of various turning points using the ideas of "historical contingency" and "historical inevitability".
		12.H.1.7	Use the antecedent circumstances of specific turning points to interpret contemporary problems and infer solutions.
12.H.2	Analyze historical interpretations and methods used by historians to study	12.H.2.1	Analyze historical interpretations, debates, and narratives surrounding various turning points in terms of perspective, logic and possible bias.

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	turning points in American history.	12.H.2.2	Analyze historical methods of research and analysis in terms of valid data collection and use of evidence.
12.H.3	Apply historical inquiry and methods to understand turning points in American history.	12.H.3.1	Analyze primary sources using the social, cultural, political and economic context in which each source was produced.
		12.H.3.2	Evaluate primary and secondary sources in terms of the creator's perspective, bias, credibility, and authority.
		12.H.3.3	Evaluate primary and secondary sources in terms of their internal consistency and completeness.
		12.H.3.4	Evaluate primary and secondary sources in terms of their authenticity and manipulation through the omission, suppression, or invention of facts.
		12.H.3.5	Use historical data collected from multiple sources (including but not limited to library and museum collections, historic sites, historical photos, journals, diaries, eyewitness accounts, newspapers, documentary films and monographs) to generate questions about specific turning points.
		12.H.3.6	Use historical data collected from multiple sources to interpret and to draw conclusions about specific turning points.
		12.H.3.7	Use historical data collected from multiple sources to produce historical narratives.