



Foundations of U.S. History

Virginia History
as American History

Teaching American History Grant

A partnership between Loudoun County Public Schools
and CHNM at George Mason University

Teaching American History Memorandum of Understanding Option A 2008-2009

I agree to accept responsibility for completing the requirements listed below for the Loudoun County Public Schools Teaching American History (TAH) project, *Foundations of U.S. History: Virginia History as American History*.

1. Attendance: Participants are expected to attend and participate in the Summer Institute workshops and site visits (10 days), as well as all school year activities (2 professional development days in August; 1 keynote lecture; 2 book discussion groups; 2 film workshops; 1 lesson plan workshop; and 1 workshop to present lesson plans).

2. Reading and Writing Requirements:

Reflections: Participants are required to read chapters and articles assigned for workshops and site visits, two books for group discussions, and to attend two film workshops as well as a keynote address. Participants will write and post online two-page reflections during the Summer Institute (3), prior to book discussions (2), after the keynote lecture (1), and after each film workshop (2).

Integrating Primary Sources: Participants will integrate TAH-related primary sources into two existing lessons that they will teach during September and/or October 2008. The Project Coordinator will observe the teaching of one of these lessons and provide feedback. Participants will write a two-to-three-page description of their experience in teaching the other lesson by October 31, 2008.

3. Mini-Unit: Participants will create a mini-unit (two to three lessons) that:

- Integrates content knowledge gained from workshops, site visits, and readings;
- Focuses on analyzing online primary sources;
- Includes engaging teaching strategies;
- Incorporates Standards of Learning; and
- Follows the template provided.

Teachers will develop their lesson in stages: submitting a topic, due **July 18, 2008**; an outline and a list of resources, due **August 22, 2008**. A draft lesson will be submitted on **November 5, 2008**. After feedback from the Project Coordinator and Lead Historian, a

final version of the lesson will be due on **January 14, 2009**. **On February 11, 2009**, participants will present their lesson plans to cohort colleagues and TAH historians.

Completed and revised lessons may be published on the TAH website. Participants will teach their extended lesson plans during the following year and may be observed by the Project Coordinator.

4. Continuation: In subsequent years, participants will share ideas and lessons learned through Teaching American History with colleagues in their schools and school district. They will have the opportunity to attend and/or present at local, state, and national conferences.

5. Evaluation: As part of the grant's evaluation process, cohort teachers will complete several surveys, and participate in teacher focus groups and interviews.

Upon **successful completion** of all requirements for the grant, **participants will receive:**

- A \$750.00 stipend;
- 6 graduate credits in history from George Mason University;
- 180 recertification points from the state of Virginia
- Access to extended lesson plans created by colleagues; and
- Expanded content knowledge as well as enhanced skills in using technology.

Participating Teacher

Date

Project Coordinator

Date