



Educating for American Democracy: The Role of Counties

1. The EAD initiative

2. American Narratives

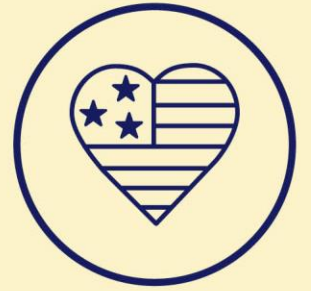
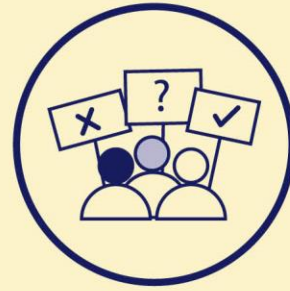
3. Civic Renewal in American Counties

1. What is *EAD*?

<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/>



Guidance to Support the Civic Development of the Country's Diverse K-12 Student Population



EDUCATING FOR
AMERICAN
 **DEMOCRACY**

Who?

A Diverse Network of 300+ Scholars, Educators and Practitioners

FUNDED BY



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



LED BY

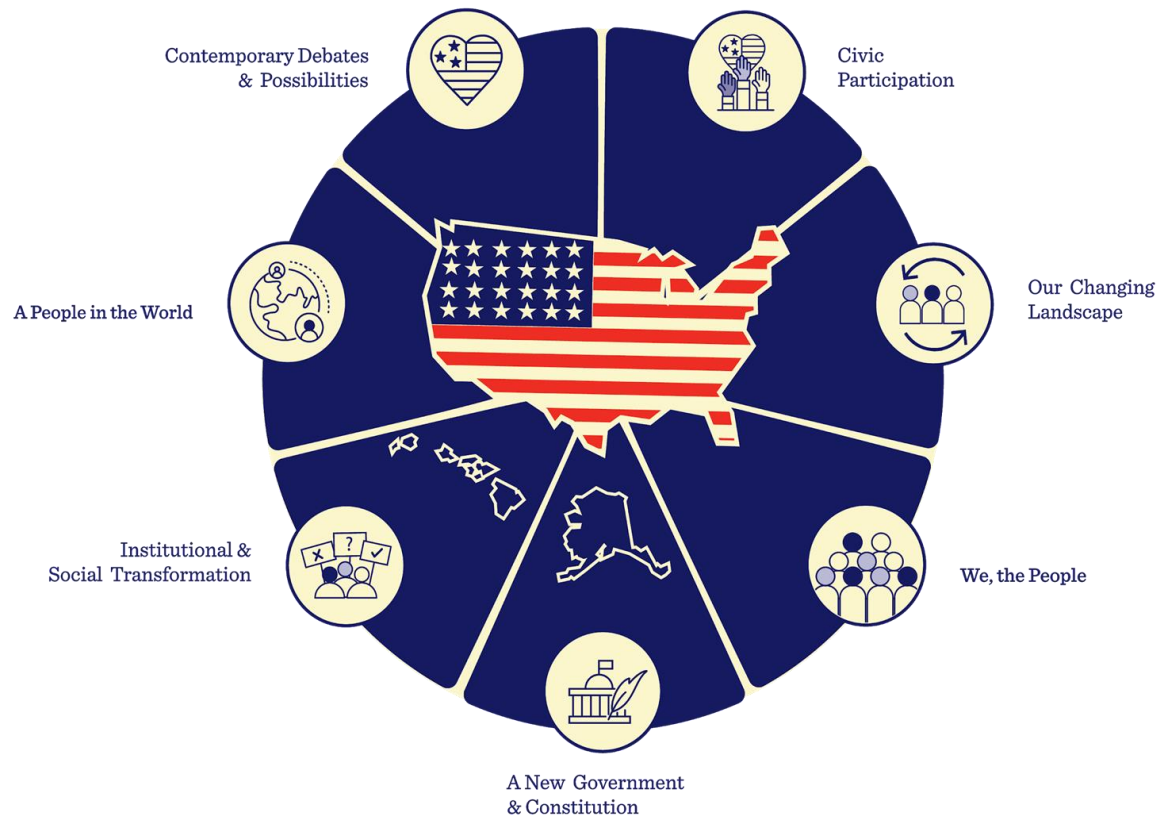


EDMOND J. SAFRA
Center for Ethics



Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life

Guidelines for Civic and History Education Excellence



Educating for American Democracy is:

- **What** and **how** to teach civics and history building students' knowledge and capacities to sustain America's constitutional democracy

What Kind of Guidance?

- *What:* Inquiry framework and design principles that states and districts may use to develop and deliver excellent history and civic learning
- Not a series of facts but questions that promote depth over breadth
- Not a national curriculum nor a mandate

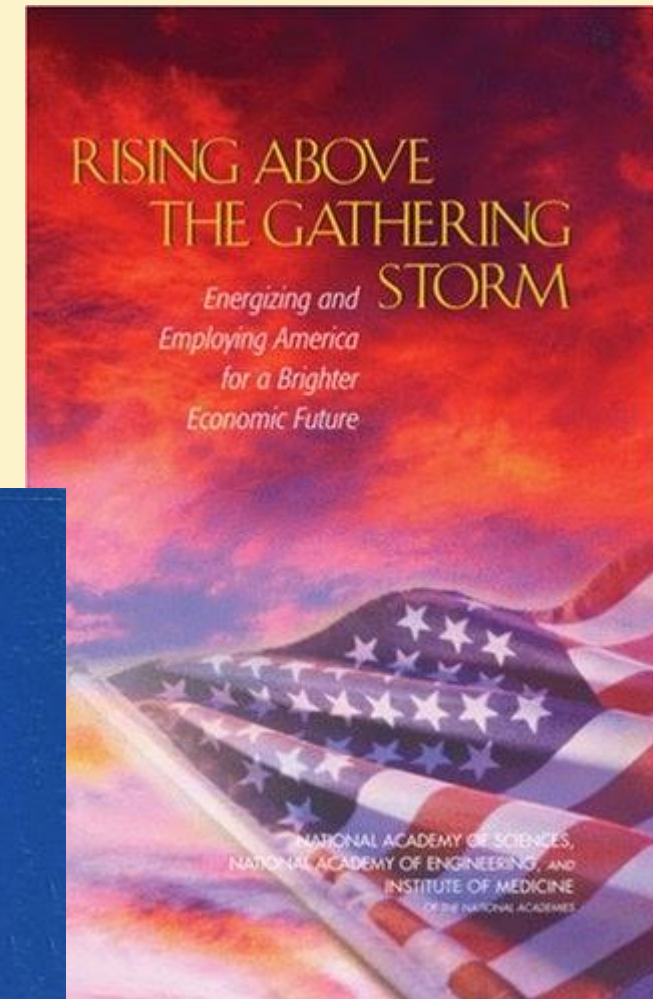
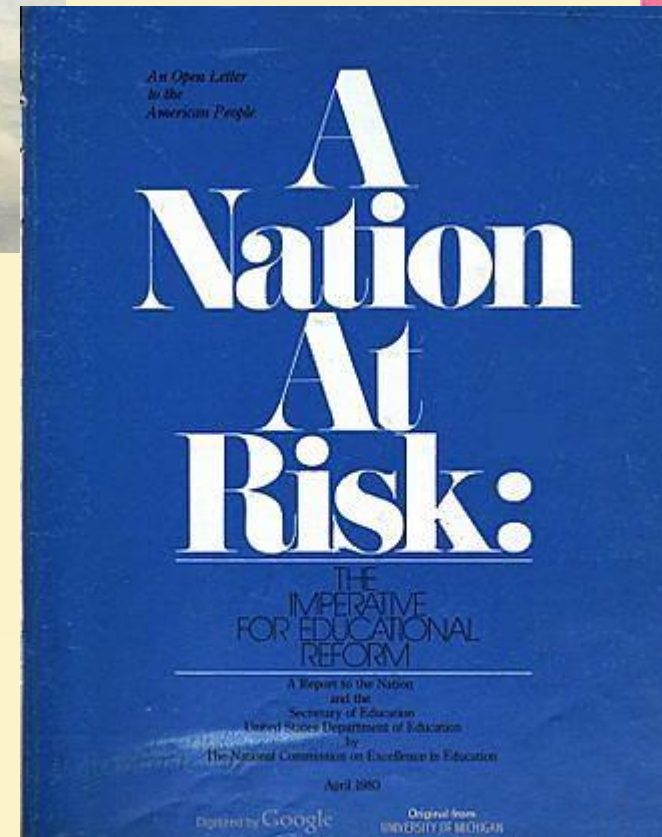


Why Now?



**Our Country is
Facing
Challenging
Times**

**We need to
prioritize Civic
Education**



Federal Funding
and Pressures
Have Suffocated
Civic Education



STEM



Per student per year

Civic Education



Per student per year

The Roadmap

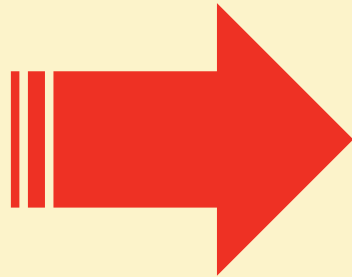


- Can be used by teachers, schools, districts, counties or states to design **instructional standards**
- Tells the American story in a way that is both **honest and optimistic**
- Is organized in 7 themes across 4 grade bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 that **integrate history and civics**
- Includes **pedagogy strategies** for excellence in teaching

A Comparison Between the Current State Standards and EAD Theme 4–A New Government and Constitution

Instead of...
current state standards
listing historical
events such as:

- The French and Indian War
- The Stamp Act
- The Boston Tea Party
- Shay's Rebellion



EAD Theme 4 asks (sample civics and history driving questions; these are accompanied by more detailed sample guiding questions):

- What were the experiences with the British government of British colonists, indigenous Americans, enslaved Americans, and indentured Americans?
- How do we decide what is fair when we are part of a group?
- Which European empires competed for territory in North America and why?
- Why did some colonists choose to become an independent nation? Why did some remain loyal to Britain?



The Roadmap – What Does it Look Like?

Theme 3: We the People

This theme explores the idea of “the people” as a political concept—not just a group of people who share a physical landscape but also a group of people who share political ideals and institutions...

History Thematic Questions

- Who are “We the People of the United States” and how has the nation’s population changed over time?
- What does our history reveal about the aspirations and tensions captured by the motto *E pluribus unum*?

Civics Thematic Questions

- Why does constitutional democracy depend on the idea of “the people”?
- What values, virtues, and principles can knit together “We the People” of the United States of America?



2. American Historical Narratives



“50 states, 50 different
ways of teaching
America’s past”

--CBS News Report, February 2020



The Mount Rushmore Narrative





The Untold Story Narrative





The Human Freedom Narrative





3. American Counties for Civic Renewal

Objectives

- Civic Education
 - *Understanding the contexts of American history, politics, and institutions in preparation for informed civic engagement*
- Civil Discourse
 - *Fostering capacities for productive discussion across disagreements and differing perspectives*



What can Counties Do?

- Civic Education
 - *Commission a working group of educators to adapt the EAD Roadmap to local school curricula*
 - *Create incentives and support structures for schools/districts and teachers to devote sufficient time and attention to civics*
 - *Provide county leaders and officials with opportunities and incentives to engage in the study of American principles and politics*
 - *Serve as a focal point or convener for similar efforts at the municipal level*



What can Counties Do?

- Civil Discourse

- *Launch Civic Renewal Reading Clubs at libraries or with local businesses*
- *Foster small group engagement on policy through structured “town hall”-type events*
- *Convene public debates between local leaders with differing visions*





How Can We Help?

- *Funding assistance available through Center for Political Thought and Leadership at ASU*
- *Experts available for consultation and support regarding particular civic education and civil discourse initiatives*
- *Center faculty available for content-based seminars or lectures*

Contact

- *Center for Political Thought and Leadership Program Manager: Susan Kells (Susan.Kells@asu.edu)*

Thank You!

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 **DEMOCRACY**