



### **Perspective**

This is understanding that history is made up of several different viewpoints. These perspectives tell very different parts of history. We will look at the viewpoint of the “rich, white guy” (“RWG”) perspective versus several other disenfranchised groups. These groups include Native Americans, Enslaved people, women, immigrants, etc. Our nation and its history has been written by the “RWG” but those other perspectives can tell a deeper, more important story.

Examples: Patriots vs Loyalist, Abolitionists vs Slave-holders

### **Citizenship**

This is the idea that being citizens (members) of the nation means multiple things. It means you are protected by your nation (security from others), there are benefits to being a citizen (rights and freedoms) and that citizens have certain responsibilities (voting, laws, taxes). We will focus on the idea of ACTIVE citizenship and being intentional with how you participate as a member of society and not just belonging.

Examples: Voting, Jury duty, protesting, being a presidential candidate

Is rebellion a form of citizenship?

### **Government**

This is the idea that our nation is led and controlled by a government but that government's purpose is to serve the people. The government was established with checks and balances within itself and it must give a voice to the people. We will focus on the idea that the “RWG” have traditionally run the government but it's up to the people to give it power.

Examples: What is the purpose of government?

balance between voice and control...safety and freedoms

### **Conflict**

This is the idea that conflict has dictated the direction our history has taken. Conflict is at the root of all of our key historical periods. Conflict comes from a variety of opinions, competition for resources/land, need to spark change, etc. We will focus on the idea that without conflict, voices are not heard and change does not happen. Our nation is largely what it is because of the conflicts it has experienced.

Examples: wars, debates, rebellions, elections

### **Continuity/ Change**

This is the idea that throughout our history some things have stayed the same and some things have changed. We still value some of the principles our nation was founded on but our practices have changed with the times. We will focus on the idea that our core beliefs, government and certain aspects of society are the same but our interpretation and meaning of those ideals are different.

Examples: Continuity: Bill of Rights, "The American Dream"

Change: Slavery, immigration, gun control

### **Growth**

This is the idea that for much of our nation's history we have been growing and developing. This growth is both physical (more land, more resources) and societal (civil rights). This growth has been at times rapid but also gradual. We will focus on the idea that growth has shaped our nation. Though inevitable and necessary this development, both physical and societal, has only complicated our history.

Examples: westward expansion, industrial revolution, sectionalism