

Social Movements & The Democratic Experiment

Humanities 11
Fall 2022



THE CONTEXT

Movements have been influential in shaping American history, but how and why are they created? What are the ideological foundations that drive social change and how do they inform the American experience? How can we critically analyze both side of an argument? We'll explore topics including the foundations of the democratic process, the concept of ideology and how it plays out in our lives, and theories of social change.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Through case studies of social movements throughout U.S. history - the American ideologies that were foundational in their formation, their successes and failures, and their impact on contemporary social movements - we will explore the relationship between social movements and the American experience.

Students will practice diverse communication strategies, participate in socratic seminars to explore complex topics, and create a collaborative project to share the "best practices" they have learned about community organizing and social change through their analysis of contemporary and historical social movements.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How have social movements shaped American history and the American experience?
- What ideologies are central to the "Democratic Experiment"? How have social movements throughout history been shaped by those ideologies?
- What contemporary social movements do I identify with?
- How do I remain unbiased while critically analyzing a social issue from multiple perspectives?
- What political, social, and economic factors have contributed to social change succeeding or failing throughout the 20th century? Today?
- What qualities of a social movement drive social change? What qualities make a movement unsuccessful?

SKILLS ADDRESSED

- rhetorical analysis
- contextualization
- literary analysis
- identifying bias/perspective-taking
- argumentative writing
- peer-critique
- public speaking
- reflection
- collaboration

LEARNING OUTCOMES

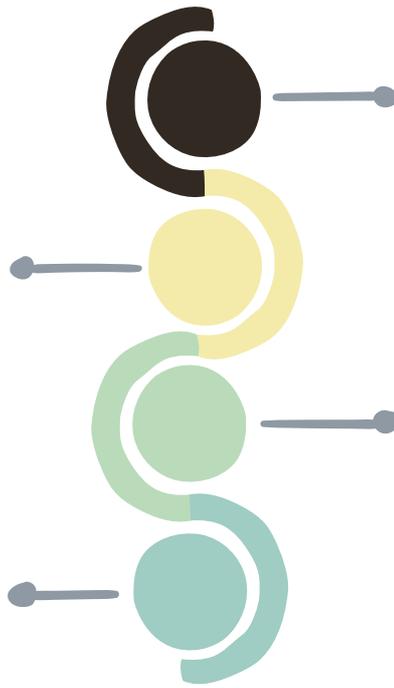
STUDENTS WILL...

- Develop an understanding of the role of social movements in American history
- Evaluate how individuals and groups can effectively use the structure and functions of various levels of government to shape policy.
- Evaluate how historical events were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.
- Compare and contrast a contemporary and historical social movement
- Critique a historical social movement for its successes and failures to enact social change
- Create articles and social media content for the school newspaper and participate in peer critiques and a writers workshop
- Identify bias in a text; evaluate social issues from multiple perspectives
- Work collaboratively on a communications project

PRODUCTS:

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS
ASSIGNMENTS

LOCAL ELECTIONS
QUILL MEDIA PROJECT



SEMINAR
REFLECTIONS

CONTEMPORARY
SOCIAL MOVEMENT
SLIDE DECK

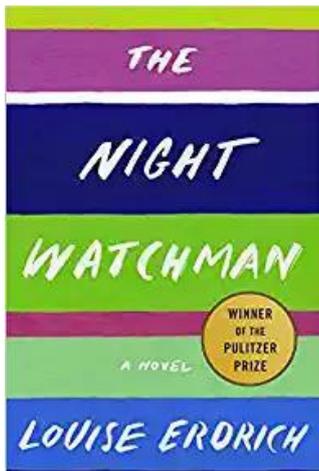
SOCIAL CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT:

- WRITTEN AND VISUAL COMPONENT
- COLLABORATIVE
- CREATIVE
- TO BE DETERMINED (STUDENT-DRIVEN)

DAILY:

- WRITING JOURNAL
- DISCUSSIONS & COLLABORATION
- SKILLS PRACTICE

HONORS:



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS &
WEEKLY READING
ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON
INDIGENOUS SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS

LITERARY ANALYSIS PAPER

Resources:

Google Classroom
Codes:

Section 1: eaey2nm

Section 2: b6vcwh2

Honors: hc75os6

[Digital Portfolio](#)

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