



Founding Fathers *Part 1*

Syllabus **Generation Joshua**

INTRO TO FOUNDING FATHERS PART 1: THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Welcome to Generation Joshua's Founding Fathers course! This is the first of three sections, The Signers of the Declaration of Independence. A basic understanding of revolutionary history would be beneficial to the student and help provide context. After completing this course, the student should have a basic understanding of the range of paradigms and backgrounds which influenced the men who wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence.

As much as possible, we base out curriculum around original source material. Each lesson will be made up of a selection of writings by a founding father. Even among the great men who founded and unified this nation, there was much division and disagreement. Students should make sure, as they go through this course, to personally analyze all of the ideas presented no matter how respected the promulgators of the idea may be.

Throughout Generation Joshua's courses, we maintain a strong emphasis on original source materials such as the ones included in this course. These works are important and beneficial for students because they are a direct view of the thoughts of our founding fathers, untarnished by modern thinkers or by the politically polarized thoughts of today's America.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Any computer with a web browser and connection to the internet is adequate to access the online courses. Most of Generation Joshua's courses require Adobe Reader to open PDF files. You can download the latest version for free at adobe.com/downloads.

TIME COMMITMENT

Please note: these are estimates only and time may vary by the amount of material in a particular lesson as well as by the reading and comprehension level of the student.

Read assigned lesson: 1-2 hours.

Study for chapter quiz: 0-1 hours.

Chapter quiz: 15-30 minutes.

Essays: 1-3 hours

Weekly Total: about 5 hours

COURSE COMPONENTS

This section of the Founding Fathers course is divided into 10 lessons. Each lesson will highlight one of the signers of the Declaration and be made up of two primary readings and a quiz. The two readings will be a biography of the signer followed by a selection of their most influential or interesting writings.

QUIZZES

Each lesson has a corresponding quiz on the Generation Joshua website. The quizzes will be 10 to 20 questions, multiple-choice, and are meant to test retention of key themes and references from the reading. Our online system will grade the quizzes immediately upon submission to give the students instant feedback. No instructor involvement is required.

ESSAYS

We have provided all reading materials and suggested essays at Weeks 4, 7, 10, and 14 in your course materials. Because this is a self-paced course, we do not offer grading services for essays, but we have provided a suggested rubric. Please note that you have full discretion to add to or leave out any sections of the suggested curriculum in order to tailor the course to your student's needs.

Essay 1 (week 3)

John Adams and Samuel Adams were second cousins from different political factions. Write at least 550 words comparing their writings and political ideologies. What were their political affiliations and how did each of them influence the foundation of political parties?

Essay 2 (week 5)

Choose a writing or theme from multiple writings and write at least 700 words analyzing the worldview that the writing or ideology came from as well as the effect it had.

Essay 3 (week 7)

Choose one of the founders from earlier in the course. Write at least 550 words on the immediate and long term effects of the writings, actions, and ideas of the selected founder

Essay 4 (week 10)

The men discussed in this course were brilliant thinkers and founded this country on revolutionary ideas. In 850-1000 words, analyze one of these principles, its functionality, ethical quality, and how well America has been able to uphold it to this day. What has caused America to lose the principle or what has enabled them to continue upholding the principle.

GRADING

Recommended grading scale for the course:

90–100 points: A (Superior grasp of the material)

80–89 points: B (Good understanding of the material)

70–79 points: C (Average/Passing)

60–69 points: D (Unsatisfactory/Consider retaking the course)

59 or below: F (Retake the course)

Recommended grading schematic for the course:

Quizzes: 5% each

Essay 1: 10%

Essay 2: 14%

Essay 3: 10%

Essay 4: 16%

SUGGESTED CREDITING

As the homeschool teacher, credit assigned for this course is ultimately at the discretion of the parents. This class should take 50 hours to complete. Depending on state law, 60 hours typically counts as half of a high school credit. We would recommend counting credit for this course towards history, civics, or government.

COMPLETION CERTIFICATES are available for each course. If you wish to receive one, please email generationjoshua@hslida.org to request a certificate after completing this course. Course completion certificates only require quiz completion and can be received without writing the essays. Students must have an overall quiz grade of 70% or higher to receive a certificate.

Week 1

John Adams, Bio and Writings
Quiz 1

Week 2

Samuel Adams, Bio and Writings
Quiz 2
Draft Essay 1

Week 3

Charles Carroll, Bio and Writings
Quiz 3
Edit, finalize, and submit Essay 1

Week 4

James Wilson, Bio and Writings
Quiz 4
Draft Essay 2

Week 5

Elbridge Gerry, Bio and Writings
Quiz 5
Edit, finalize, and submit Essay 2

Week 6

John Hancock, Bio and Writings
Quiz 6
Draft Essay 3

Week 7

Thomas Jefferson, Bio and Writings
Quiz 7
Edit, finalize, and submit Essay 3

Week 8

Richard Henry Lee, Bio and Writings
Quiz 8
Outline/brainstorm Essay 4

Week 9

Benjamin Rush, Bio and Writings
Quiz 9
Draft Essay 4

Week 10

John Witherspoon, Bio and Writings
Quiz 10
Edit, finalize, and submit Essay 4