



INTRO TO FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Welcome to Generation Joshua's Founding Documents course! 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 political ideologies

As much as possible, we base our curriculum around original source material. Each lesson will be made up of a selection of writings by a founding father or other prominent leader depending on the time. 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 or may not 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, however we have provided a small excerpt at the beginning of each lesson and before each document to help give some context as to what was going on at the time and why these documents mattered then and matter now.

COURSE COMPONENTS

The Founding Documents course is divided into 10 lessons, each focused on important documents at key points in early American history. Each lesson contains a brief introduction, primary source documents to read, and at least one quiz. Four lessons also include an essay assignment. As the student goes through the course, they will develop a deeper understanding of the situations the colonists and early Americans faced as well as how they worked through them to build this nation. Each week's lesson length will vary, though we recommend allowing 1-2 hours for reading and additional time for quizzes and essays.

QUIZZES

At checkpoints throughout the course, there will be a few quizzes to be taken on the website. The quizzes will be 10 to 20 questions, multiple-choice, and will test both knowledge of the material learned as well as what was learned from the hands-on activities. 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 2, 5, 8, and 10 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.

Essays 1 (week 2)

The Virginia Charter and the Mayflower Compact were two documents written for similar purposes within less than 20 years of each other, yet there are a lot of differences. One was written by the charter for the people, and the other was written by the people who would live under it. Compare and contrast the two documents, analyzing and evaluating the ideas they contained. (500 - 800 words)

Essay 2 (week 5)

The early state Constitutions give insight into how the laboratories of democracy work. Write an essay showing the similarities and differences between the Constitutions in this lesson. What do these documents show about the core values of those who wrote and ratified them? (800 - 1000 words)

Essays 3 (week 8)

The colonists had a large task ahead of them in creating a free nation and its government. Many of the documents they wrote were based in their present situation, but were very aspirational at the same time. Write an essay that talks about the balance between the situation that they faced and the hope the founders saw for America in the future. (800 - 1000 words)

Essay 4 (week 10)

The Articles of Confederation was the founders' first try at creating an American government that balanced protecting personal liberties with creating a balanced federal government. This document was later replaced with the Constitution and Bill of Rights, which have been the foundation of our government for over 200 years. Why did the Articles of Confederation fail, and why has the Constitution remained as a lasting document to this day? (At least 1000 words)

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)

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 hour

Study and Quizzes: 1 1/2 hour

Essay writing: 1 hour

Weekly Total: about 4 1/2 hours.

SUGGESTED CREDITING

As the homeschool teacher, credit assigned for this course is ultimately at the discretion of the parents. This class is designed to take roughly 60 hours to complete, which would translate to half of a high school credit.

Due to the nature of this particular course, it could easily be made to take anywhere from 30 to 120 hours (one quarter to one full credit) dependent on the student's interests; crediting should be adjusted accordingly.

We would recommend assigning any credit to American Government and/or Civics.

COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

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 The Birth of our Nation

Read Documents for week 1

Quiz 1

Draft Essay 1

WEEK 2 The Rights of the People

Read Documents for week 2

Quiz 2

Write Essay 1

WEEK 3 The Purpose of Government

Read Documents for week 3

Quiz 3

WEEK 4 Proper Balance in Government

Read Documents for week 4

Quiz 4

Draft Essay 1

WEEK 5 The rise of a Nation

Read Documents for week 5

Quiz 5

Write Essay 2

WEEK 6 The Cry for Independence

Read Documents for week 6

Quiz 6

WEEK 7 The American Experiment

Read Documents for week 7

Quiz 7

Draft Essay 1

WEEK 8 The Fight for Freedom

Read Documents for week 8

Quiz 8

Write Essay 3

WEEK 9 The United states of America

Read Documents for week 9

Quiz 9

Draft Essay 1

WEEK 10 A Fledgling Nation Grows

Read Documents for week 10

Quiz 10

Write Essay 4