

## Writing Prompts US History

*In order to be successful in the classroom, students must have choice, write everyday and be able to defend positions. These prompts allow students to do all three. Please consider using these on a daily basis.*

**COMPETENCY GOAL 1: The New Nation (1789-1820) - The learner will identify, investigate, and assess the effectiveness of the institutions of the emerging republic.**

### **Objectives**

- 1.01 Identify the major domestic issues and conflicts experienced by the nation during the Federalist Period.
- 1.02 Analyze the political freedoms available to the following groups prior to 1820: women, wage earners, landless farmers, American Indians, African Americans, and other ethnic groups.
- 1.03 Assess commercial and diplomatic relationships with Britain, France, and other nations.

Of the following domestic issues and conflicts, which had the most positive impact on the development of the US and why?

- Whiskey Rebellion
- Judiciary Act of 1789
- Issues between Jefferson and Hamilton
- Development of the 2 party system
- Shay's Rebellion

Who was more influential on the development of the US?

- Jefferson as Secretary of State
- Hamilton as Secretary of Treasurer

If you lived in the US during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, what would you have been? Why?

- Federalist
- Anti Federalist

Who was more important to American Foreign Policy?

- Thomas Pinckney
- John Jay

If you were George Washington, which of the following would be your choice as an ally and why?

- Great Britain
- France

- Spain
- neither

Which of the following 2 acts had the most lasting long term effects on the US?

- Alien and Sedition Acts
- Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

Which president was the best president in early American History and why?

- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson

Of the following court cases, which did the most to strengthen the Federal Government power over state government power and why?

- Marbury v Madison, 1803
- Gibbons v Ogden
- McCulloch v Maryland

Who was more important to the development of the United States and why?

- John Marshall
- Lewis and Clark
- Sacajawea

Read Washington's Farewell Address and/or Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality. If the US had not taken the advice of President Washington and had decided not to stay neutral, then what is an area of possible conflict? With a partner, write a newspaper story from a day between 1796-1808 that describes a possible event that might have occurred in the arena of foreign policy. Also, your partner should write a letter to the editor expressing your concern that our country did not follow the policy of non entangling alliances based on the above news story.

Which of the following acts hurt the US the most and why?

- Macon's Bill #2
- Embargo Act
- Non-Intercourse Act

Choose one of the following groups of people and write a letter to the president of the US expressing your displeasure with your lack of rights in these new United States.

- Women
- Wage earners

- Landless farmers
- American Indians
- African American
- Any ethnic group of your choice

Which treaty was the most helpful and least helpful and why?

- Adams-Onis Treaty
- Jay's Treaty
- Pinckney's Treaty

**COMPETENCY GOAL 2: Expansion and Reform (1801-1850) - The learner will assess the competing forces of expansionism, nationalism, and sectionalism.**

**Objectives**

- 2.01 Analyze the effects of territorial expansion and the admission of new states to the Union.
- 2.02 Describe how the growth of nationalism and sectionalism were reflected in art, literature, and language.
- 2.03 Distinguish between the economic and social issues that led to sectionalism and nationalism.
- 2.04 Assess political events, issues, and personalities that contributed to sectionalism and nationalism.
- 2.05 Identify the major reform movements and evaluate their effectiveness.
- 2.06 Evaluate the role of religion in the debate over slavery and other social movements and issues.

What is better for the country and why?

- Sectionalism
- Nationalism

Choose five pieces of art for students to look at from the period that demonstrates the new nationalistic spirit of the United States. Have students choose the one that best represents the period and defend why.

What was more important in strengthening the United States and why?

- Monroe Doctrine
- Manifest Destiny

Rank the following land acquisitions/issues in the order of most important to least important. Why did you choose the one that you chose as the most important?

- Louisiana Purchase
- Missouri Compromise
- Texas Annexation

- “54-40” or Fight

Which of the following had the most important invention and why?

- Samuel Morse
- Eli Whitney
- John Deere
- Cyrus McCormick
- Robert Fulton

Which of the following was more important for civil rights and why?

- William Lloyd Garrison
- Frederick Douglass

Which of the following would have frightened the South the most and why?

- Nat Turner’s rebellion
- Tariff of Abominations
- South Carolina Nullification Crisis

Rank the following women in importance in the area of women’s rights from the greatest to the least. Why did you choose ... as the most important?

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Lucretia Mott
- Sojourner truth
- Susan B. Anthony

**COMPETENCY GOAL 3: Crisis, Civil War, and Reconstruction (1848-1877) - The learner will analyze the issues that led to the Civil War, the effects of the war, and the impact of Reconstruction on the nation.**

**Objectives**

3.01 Trace the economic, social, and political events from the Mexican War to the outbreak of the Civil War.

3.02 Analyze and assess the causes of the Civil War.

3.03 Identify political and military turning points of the Civil War and assess their significance to the outcome of the conflict.

3.04 Analyze the political, economic, and social impact of Reconstruction on the nation and identify the reasons why Reconstruction came to an end.

3.05 Evaluate the degree to which the Civil War and Reconstruction proved to be a test of the supremacy of the national government.

What was the most important reason for the start of the Civil War? Why?

- Sumner-Brooks incident

- Freeport Doctrine
- John Brown and Harper's Ferry
- Fugitive Slave Act
- Uncle Tom's Cabin
- Election of 1860

Who was hurt the most as a result of the Civil War? Why?

- Southern aristocrats
- Former Slaves
- Freemen

What was the most important economic event from 1848-1877? Why?

- Slave Codes

What was the most important social event from 1848-1877? Why?

- Anti Slavery movement
- Slave codes
- Underground Railroad
- Free Soil Party
- Uncle Tom's Cabin

What was the most important political event from 1848-1877? Why?

- Kansas-Nebraska Act
- Bleeding Kansas
- Rise of Republican Party
- Missouri Compromise
- Dred Scott v Sanford, 1857
- Rise of Free Soil Party
- Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- Compromise of 1850
- Secession

What was the most lasting political impact of Reconstruction on the United States? Why?

- Scalawags
- Carpetbaggers
- Black Codes
- Solid South
- Radical Republicans
- Reconstruction Plans
- Tenure of Office Act
- Johnson's Impeachment
- Whiskey Ring
- Military Reconstruction
- 13<sup>th</sup> amendment

- 14<sup>th</sup> amendment
- 15<sup>th</sup> amendment

What was the most lasting economic impact of Reconstruction on the United States? Why?

- Sharecroppers
- Tenant Farmers

What was the most lasting social impact of Reconstruction on the United States? Why?

- KKK
- Jim Crow Laws
- Freedman's Bureau
- Civil Rights Act of 1866

Which of the following battles was most important for the North winning the war? Why?

- 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Bull Run/Manassas
- Vicksburg
- Gettysburg

What was the most important political turning point for the North winning the war? Why?

- Gettysburg Address
- Election of 1864

What were the most important reasons for the end of Reconstruction? Why?

Which proved to be a greater test of the supremacy of the national government? Why?

- Civil War
- Reconstruction

**COMPETENCY GOAL 4: The Great West and the Rise of the Debtor (1860s-1896)**  
**- The learner will evaluate the great westward movement and assess the impact of the agricultural revolution on the nation.**

**Objectives**

4.01 Compare and contrast the different groups of people who migrated to the West and describe the problems they experienced.

4.02 Evaluate the impact that settlement in the West had upon different groups of people and the environment.

4.03 Describe the causes and effects of the financial difficulties that plagued the American farmer and trace the rise and decline of Populism.

4.04 Describe innovations in agricultural technology and business practices and assess their impact on the West.

Which group of people experienced the greatest problems in migrating westward? Why?

What group of people affected the environment the most? Why?

What was the greatest financial difficulty of the Populist? Why?

What was the most important cause of the rise of Populism? Why?

What was the greatest problem that faced farmers from 1860-1896? Why?  
What was the major reason in the decline of Populism? Why?  
Which technological innovation in agriculture had the greatest impact on the growth of the West? Why?  
What business practice had the greatest affect on the growth of the West? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 5: Becoming an Industrial Society (1877-1900) - The learner will describe innovations in technology and business practices and assess their impact on economic, political, and social life in America.**

**Objectives**

- 5.01 Evaluate the influence of immigration and rapid industrialization on urban life.
- 5.02 Explain how business and industrial leaders accumulated wealth and wielded political and economic power.
- 5.03 Assess the impact of labor unions on industry and the lives of workers.
- 5.04 Describe the changing role of government in economic and political affairs.

Which technological innovation had the greatest impact on the growth of the US into an industrialized society? Why?  
Which technological innovation had the greatest impact on the growth of economic life in America? Why?  
Which technological innovation had the greatest impact on the growth of economic life in America? Why?  
Which technological innovation had the greatest impact on the growth of social life in America? Why?  
Which immigrant group had the hardest time becoming acculturated to the US? Why?  
Which business leader accumulated the most political power in the US and why do you think that he had the most power?  
Which business leader accumulated the most economic power and why do you think that he had the most power?  
Which labor union had the greatest impact on the industry? Why?  
Which labor union had the greatest impact on the lives of workers? Why?  
Which change in government affected the economy the most? Why?  
In what area did government change the most? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 6: The emergence of the United States in World Affairs (1890-1914) - The learner will analyze causes and effects of the United States emergence as a world power.**

**Objectives**

- 6.01 Examine the factors that led to the United States taking an increasingly active role in world affairs.
- 6.02 Identify the areas of United States military, economic, and political involvement and influence.
- 6.03 Describe how the policies and actions of the United States government impacted the affairs of other countries.

What was the most important cause for the US becoming a world power? Why?  
What was the greatest effect of the US becoming a world power?

Which factor was most important in the US taking a more active role in world affairs?  
Why?  
What was the most important area of military involvement in leading the US to becoming a world power? Why?  
What was the most important economic development in leading the US to becoming a world power? Why?  
What was the most important political development in leading the US to becoming a world power? Why?  
Choose one of the countries and events below and tell how it had more of an impact on the people in their country than the others did on their country.

**COMPETENCY GOAL 7: The Progressive Movement in the United States (1890-1914) - The learner will analyze the economic, political, and social reforms of the Progressive Period.**

**Objectives**

- 7.01 Explain the conditions that led to the rise of Progressivism.
- 7.02 Analyze how different groups of Americans made economic and political gains in the Progressive Period.
- 7.03 Evaluate the effects of racial segregation on different regions and segments of the United States' society.
- 7.04 Examine the impact of technological changes on economic, social, and cultural life in the United States.

Which of the following was the most significant economic reform of the Progressive Period? Why?  
What was the most significant political reform of the Progressive Period? Why?  
What was the most significant social reform of the Progressive Period? Why?  
What was the most significant condition that led to the rise of Progressivism? Why?  
Which of the following groups made the most economic gains during the Progressivist period? Why?  
Which of the following groups made the most political gains during the Progressivist period? Why?  
Of the following groups, which segregated group experienced the most dramatic effects? Why?  
Which technological change had the most dramatic effects on the economy? Why?  
Which technological change had the most dramatic effects on society? Why?  
Which technological change had the most dramatic effects on the cultural life? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 8: The Great War and Its Aftermath (1914-1930) - The learner will analyze United States involvement in World War I and the war's influence on international affairs during the 1920's.**

**Objectives**

- 8.01 Examine the reasons why the United States remained neutral at the beginning of World War I but later became involved.

8.02 Identify political and military turning points of the war and determine their significance to the outcome of the conflict.

8.03 Assess the political, economic, social, and cultural effects of the war on the United States and other nations.

Which of the following reasons is most notable for keeping the US neutral at the beginning of WWI? Why?

Which of the following political events is most important as a turning point (as a means of influencing the outcome of the war) of WWI? Why?

Which of the following military events is most important as a turning point (as a means of influencing the outcome of the war) of WWI? Why?

Which political effect of WWI had the most dramatic effect on the US and other nations? Why?

Which economic effect of WWI had the most dramatic effect on the US and other nations? Why?

Which social effect of WWI had the most dramatic effect on the US and other nations? Why?

Which cultural effect of WWI had the most dramatic effect on the US and other nations? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 9: Prosperity and Depression (1919-1939) - The learner will appraise the economic, social, and political changes of the decades of "The Twenties" and "The Thirties."**

**Objectives**

9.01 Elaborate on the cycle of economic boom and bust in the 1920's and 1930's.

9.02 Analyze the extent of prosperity for different segments of society during this period.

9.03 Analyze the significance of social, intellectual, and technological changes of lifestyles in the United States.

9.04 Describe challenges to traditional practices in religion, race, and gender.

9.05 Assess the impact of New Deal reforms in enlarging the role of the federal government in American life.

What was the most significant economic change of the 1920s? Why?

What was the most significant social change of the 1920s? Why?

What was the most significant political change of the 1920s? Why?

What was the most significant economic change of the 1930s? Why?

What was the most significant social change of the 1930s? Why?

What was the most significant political change of the 1930s? Why?

What is the most significant reason for the boom of the 1920s? Why?

What is the most significant reasons for the bust of the 1920s? Why?

Which group in society experienced the greatest amount of prosperity during the period? Why?

Which group in society experienced the least amount of prosperity during the period? Why?

What was the most important social change in lifestyle during the period? Why?

What was the most important intellectual change in lifestyle during the period? Why?

What was the most important technological change in lifestyle during the period? Why?  
What was the most important social change in lifestyle during the period? Why?  
What was the most important intellectual change in lifestyle during the period? Why?  
What was the most important technological change in lifestyle during the period? Why?  
What was the greatest challenge to traditional practices in religion? Why?  
What was the greatest challenge to traditional practices in race? Why?  
What was the greatest challenge to traditional practices in gender? Why?  
Which New Deal reform had the greatest effect on enlarging the role of the federal government in American life during the period? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 10: World War II and the Beginning of the Cold War (1930s-1963) - The learner will analyze United States involvement in World War II and the war's influence on international affairs in following decades.**

**Objectives**

- 10.01 Elaborate on the causes of World War II and reasons for United States entry into the war.
- 10.02 Identify military, political, and diplomatic turning points of the war and determine their significance to the outcome and aftermath of the conflict.
- 10.03 Describe and analyze the effects of the war on American economic, social, political, and cultural life.
- 10.04 Elaborate on changes in the direction of foreign policy related to the beginnings of the Cold War.
- 10.05 Assess the role of organizations established to maintain peace and examine their continuing effectiveness.

What is the best reason for explaining the US entry and involvement into WW II? Why?  
What is the most significant cause of WWII? Why?  
What is the most significant military turning point of WWII discuss its significance to the outcome and aftermath of the conflict?  
What is the most significant political turning point of WWII discuss its significance to the outcome and aftermath of the conflict?  
What is the most significant diplomatic turning point of WWII discuss its significance to the outcome and aftermath of the conflict?  
What is the most important effect of the war on American economic life? Why?  
What is the most important effect of the war on American social life? Why?  
What is the most important effect of the war on American political life? Why?  
What is the most important effect of the war on American cultural life? Why?  
What is the most important change in foreign policy at the beginning of the Cold War? Why?  
What is the most important peace keeping organization at the beginning of the Cold War? Why?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 11: Recovery, Prosperity, and Turmoil (1945-1980) - The learner will trace economic, political, and social developments and assess their significance for the lives of Americans during this time period.**

**Objectives**

11.01 Describe the effects of the Cold War on economic, political, and social life in America.

11.02 Trace major events of the Civil Rights Movement and evaluate its impact.

11.03 Identify major social movements including, but not limited to, those involving women, young people, and the environment, and evaluate the impact of these movements on the United States' society.

11.04 Identify the causes of United States' involvement in Vietnam and examine how this involvement affected society.

11.05 Examine the impact of technological innovations that have impacted American life.

11.06 Identify political events and the actions and reactions of the government officials and citizens, and assess the social and political consequences.

What was the most important economic development from 1945-1980 and why was it significant for the lives of Americans?

What was the most important political development from 1945-1980 and why was it significant for the lives of Americans?

What was the most important social development from 1945-1980 and why was it significant for the lives of Americans?

What is the most significant economic effect of the Cold War on life in America? Why?

What is the most significant political effect of the Cold War on life in America? Why?

What is the most significant social effect of the Cold War on life in America? Why?

What is the most important event of the Civil Rights Movement and what was its impact on the movement?

What was the most important social movement, involving women, during the period and what was its effect on society? Why?

What was the most important social movement, involving young people, during the period and what was its effect on society? Why?

What was the most important social movement, involving the environment, during the period and what was its effect on society? Why?

What was the most important reason for US involvement in Vietnam? How did it affect society?

What was the most important technological innovation of the period and how did it impact American life?

What was the most important political event of the period? What was its effect on officials, citizens? What were the political consequences of the event? What were the social consequences of the event? How did people respond to the event? How did government respond to the event?

**COMPETENCY GOAL 12: The United States since the Vietnam War (1973-present) - The learner will identify and analyze trends in domestic and foreign affairs of the United States during this time period.**

## **Objectives**

- 12.01 Summarize significant events in foreign policy since the Vietnam War.
- 12.02 Evaluate the impact of recent constitutional amendments, court rulings, and federal legislation on United States' citizens.
- 12.03 Identify and assess the impact of economic, technological, and environmental changes in the United States.
- 12.04 Identify and assess the impact of social, political, and cultural changes in the United States.
- 12.05 Assess the impact of growing racial and ethnic diversity in American society.
- 12.06 Assess the impact of twenty-first century terrorist activity on American society.

What was the most important foreign policy event since the Vietnam War? Why?

What was the most important constitutional amendment, court ruling or federal legislation on the citizens of the United States? Why?

What was the most important economic change of the period? Why?

What was the most important technological change of the period? Why?

What was the most important environmental change of the period? Why?

What was the most important social change of the period? Why?

What was the most important political change of the period? Why?

What was the most important cultural change of the period? Why?

What is the greatest problem of growing racial and ethnic diversity in America? Why?

What is the greatest benefit of growing racial and ethnic diversity in America? Why?

What is the greatest future problem brought on by terrorist activity in American in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Why?

Writing Prompts to End Class

US History