



THE IDEA OF AMERICA™

Colonial Williamsburg®

The Great Debate & Living History Seminar

8:00 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**

8:30 a.m. **MODULE 1: The Great Debate**
Introductory Activity & Character

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Examine the theoretical and practical components around which *The Idea of America* program was created.
- Identify the value tensions and the role they play in the Great Debate.
- Analyze and explain the multiple meanings inherent in each of the program's eight values.

9:45 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. **MODULE 2: Enduring Themes Throughout American History**
Timeline Activity

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Explore historical events and themes that have been a part of America's history throughout the centuries.
- Demonstrate how debates over the same values recur in different times, places, and contexts in American history.
- Understand how shifting toward a particular American value tends to alter the balance with its countervailing value, and explain the significance of these value tensions.

11:00 a.m. **MODULE 3: American Protest Tradition (customizable content)**
Sample Case Study/Character Interaction

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Identify the components of one case study in *The Idea of America*.
- Analyze the media-rich delivery of content presented in one case study.
- Adapt strategies to use case study activities within the classroom.

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **MODULE 4: Getting to Know *The Idea of America***TM
Scavenger Hunt Activity

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Identify and use the different components of *The Idea of America* within the Learning Management System.
- Explore the variety of case study activities included in *The Idea of America*.
- Create lesson plans aligned with state standards using the Learning Management System.

2:00 p.m. **MODULE 5: Current Events/Virtual Republic**
It's In the News (Character Involvement to connect past to the present)

As a result of this lesson, teachers will be able to:

- Explain the value tension(s) and their role in the discussion of current events
- Engage in civil debate
- Discuss how civic engagement is vital to the nation's health.
- Describe how the Current Events/Virtual Republic website encourages civil debate, political compromise, and a historical perspective to resolve contentious issues in America today.

3:00 p.m. **Questions & Wrap Up**

3:30 p.m. **Conclude**