

History Department Vision Statement

CCSC history teachers -- like the Humanities Department as a whole -- take an interdisciplinary approach to developing students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills for the demands of college and beyond. Teachers guide students in building content knowledge and in thinking critically so that they can articulate and engage with ideas as thoughtful world citizens.

In order to achieve the vision above, students engage in the following learning activities:

- **Critical Reading** -- CCSC students read and interpret a wide range of texts in order to build content knowledge and analyze different historical perspectives. Texts include primary and secondary sources (including textbooks), and print and non-print sources. Students evaluate the reliability of sources, analyze the quality of the evidence they present, identify similarities and differences across multiple sources, and apply their knowledge to current events. Students apply their historical knowledge to understand the historical context of a variety of documents while analyzing the impact of point of view, intended audience, and purpose on the document's meaning.
- **Study Skills** -- CCSC students develop skills for independently building and reviewing content knowledge. As homework, students regularly take notes on textbook readings that preview class material. During lectures, students take notes that identify key information and summarize their own perspectives and connections. Students use the notes they take as a reference throughout the year. Students learn strategies for reviewing and synthesizing historical content across units, time periods, and themes, including review games, constructing graphic organizers, and drafting practice test questions.
- **Using Historical Thinking Skills Orally & In Writing** -- CCSC teachers present their students with complex historical questions. In response to these questions, students break down prompts and construct arguments based on factual and textual evidence, along with historical reasoning. In particular, students regularly use the 4 AP historical reasoning skills (contextualization, comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time). Students defend their arguments orally and in writing -- in class discussions and debates, as well as in response to short answer questions, long essay questions, and document based questions.



- **Critical Thinking** -- Students take the perspectives of others to intentionally connect the past with the present. Students will also participate in simulations, civic engagement, and political activism. Students will complete formal assessments, such as essays or culminating projects that synthesize both the information from the course and related current events.