



Social Studies Viking Scholar Submission

Important Dates:

Application Opens: February 6, 2026

Application Deadline: February 17, 2026

Portfolio Deadline: March 20, 2026 - to the main office by 3:00pm

The interviews will be scheduled during Friday, April 17, 2026 after 1:00 p.m.

The Viking Scholar Recognition Reception is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026 @ 1:15 p.m.

Step 1: Complete application and submit by the deadline. You will need to login to csd docs to complete this: [Click here for Application Link](#)

Portfolio Requirements

What You Need to Turn In:

1. One Artifact from 8th Grade U.S. History Class

- Choose something you did in class that shows your best work, like an essay, assignment, or project.
- It must be from 8th grade.

2. 2-Page Essay

- Write an essay about your chosen topic (from your artifact) and explain how it affects people in the U.S. today.
- Your essay must be 2 typed pages, use size 12 Times New Roman font, and follow MLA format (including a Works Cited page).
- Focus on one historical event, theme, or issue that's part of the 8th-grade U.S. History curriculum and still important today.
- Your essay will have 3 sections, each less than 1 page:
 - **Historical Context:**
 - Explain what happened in the past.
 - Include 1-2 primary sources and 1-2 interpretations from present-day historians (you can use sources from class).
 - Add your own analysis of the event, theme, or issue.
 - **Contemporary Relevance:**
 - Show how the topic you chose still matters today.
 - Use 1-2 reliable news sources (like Associated Press or BBC) and 1-2 reliable present-day researchers or experts.

- **The Historical Lesson:**
 - Share the big lesson we can learn from this issue and how we can use it today.
 - Use your own words to connect the past to the present.
3. **Google Slides Presentation**
 - Create 3-6 Google Slides to visually present your essay.
 - Include 1-2 slides for each of the three sections in your essay.
 - Don't copy and paste your whole essay—only use key points and ideas, plus images and citations.
 - Be ready to present your slides to all three U.S. History teachers in 3-4 minutes.
 4. **Presentation:** If your work gets chosen, you'll need to present it to all the social studies teachers. Check the rubric below to see how your presentation will be scored.

Submission Requirements:

- **All-in-One:** All your work needs to be submitted together as one package.
- **Class Artifact:** Choose one piece of work (artifact) from your 8th grade U.S. History class that shows your best effort. This could be an essay, project, assignment, or something similar.
- **Essay Connection:** You'll use this artifact to write an essay. In your essay, explain how the topic of your artifact connects to the present day. The connection can be broad.

Essay Prompt:

Explain how the topic from your artifact affects people in the United States today.

Visual Presentation (Google Slides):

- Create 3–6 slides for a 3–4 minute presentation.
- Break your slides into three sections (1–2 slides for each section).
- Don't copy and paste your entire essay onto the slides. Instead, include short pieces of text with important ideas, citations, and images.

Presentation:

If your work is chosen, you'll present it to all the social studies teachers. Check the rubric below to see how your presentation will be scored.

Please see rubric below.

Scoring Category	Outstanding (4)	Proficient (2)	Inadequate (0)
Submit your whole project with your class artifact and essay included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLA title Page (first page) • Artifact (second page), essay (third page) and works cited (last page). 	Follows directions and all parts included	Missing portions, but still presentable.	Missing significant components
Total /4			

Artifact Rubric			
Scoring Category	Outstanding (6)	Proficient (3)	Inadequate (1)
Submit your artifact as it was for your class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT CHANGE YOUR ARTIFACT. • WHAT YOU DID WAS AMAZING TO BEGIN. 	Fully complete, well thought out. High level of thinking.	Clearly complete, but missing key historical thinking skills.	Does not meet the needs of historical thinking skills.
Total /6			

Essay: Explain how the topic of your choice (from your artifact) influences citizens of the United States today?			
Scoring Category	Outstanding (6)	Proficient (3)	Inadequate (1)
Essay Length: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 - 750 words • Word count provided at the end of the essay 	500-750 words	300 - 500 words	<300 words
Essay Formatting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLA formatted header • MLA formatted essay • MLA formatted works cited page 	All three correctly formatted	2 of 3 correctly formatted	<2 correctly formatted
Essay Topic & Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic is relevant to both the past and present • Focuses on one historical topic, theme, or issue that is a part of the 8th grade US History curriculum 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Writing Mechanics: 5 paragraph essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction - hook, background & thesis ○ Historical Context ○ Contemporary Relevance ○ Historical Lesson ○ Conclusion • 3rd person formal • Strong academic writing 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Historical Context: Provide historical context of an event, theme, or issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 primary sources referenced and cited 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 secondary sources referenced and cited 			
Contemporary Relevance: Explain how your topic is still relevant to today. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to historical context and its impact on contemporary relevance 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
The Historical Lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the lesson learned from this historical event. Explain how the lesson learned from this historical event applies to the present. This is the final section of your essay - reference the historical context and contemporary relevance 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Total / 42	This score will determine if you move on to the interview		

Presentation - If you are selected.			
Scoring Category	Outstanding (6)	Proficient (3)	Inadequate (1)
Professional Appearance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dressed professionally, neat, clean, well presented 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Presentation Length: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-4 minutes long 	3-4 mins.	2-3 mins	<2 mins
Presentation Delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear speaking (no gum) and expression Eye contact Volume & projection Confidence (rehearsal) and poise Minimized filler words such as: um, uh, like, so 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Presentation Construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - 3 slides per essay section Historical Context, Contemporary Relevance, Historical Lesson 	All three referenced	2 of 3 referenced	<2 referenced
Visual Aides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neat and organized Used for reference - not copied from essay 	Exemplar	Proficient	Trying
Total / 30			

Full Total / 82