



TEACHER INTRODUCTION TO *A PRESIDENT'S VISION*

An innovative suite of U.S. history curriculum materials, *A President's Vision* examines the aspirations of notable U.S. presidents and the programs and initiatives that advanced each man's vision.

The centerpiece of the program is a **series of seven posters** examining the vision that shaped the presidencies of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and Ronald Reagan. More than simply a summary of the president's time in office, each poster identifies the president's *vision* of his presidency—the “big idea” that guided his actions and decisions in office. The documents, photographs, works of art, and other primary sources featured on each poster illustrate the enactment of his vision.

In November 2012, Humanities Texas distributed a full set of the posters to schools and public libraries throughout Texas. Full-size, high-resolution digital files of the posters are available now on the *President's Vision* website for download: www.presidentsvision.org.

The *President's Vision* website also includes a wide range of instructional resources, including:

DOWNLOADABLE WORKSHEETS

A series of downloadable worksheets accompany each poster. Students may complete the worksheets individually or in pairs or groups. Since all materials featured in the *President's Vision* program are also available online, students may complete these worksheets either by using the posters themselves or the program website.

- **At First Glance Worksheets** guide students through an initial examination of each poster, asking them to take an inventory of their knowledge about the president, read the narrative closely, and ultimately attempt an initial summary of the president's vision. These worksheets also ask students to consider the posters' visual design. Why are some visual elements emphasized over others? How do the individual components work together to make a broader argument? What effect do the designers' choices ultimately have on viewers?
- **Image Analysis Worksheets** guide students through a close examination of each of the primary sources featured on each poster. These worksheets encourage students to develop a deeper analysis of each primary source and place it in context historically.
- Each of the **Primary Source Worksheets** includes a single primary source and a series of questions and activities. The questions require students to study the source, understand it, and consider it within the context of the president's term. The activities included on these worksheets are generally comprehensive assignments not easily completed in one classroom period.
- **Spanish Translations** of the poster narratives are available to support Spanish-speaking students.
- Finally, the **Classroom Activities, Assignments, and Further Resources** documents provide you with additional prompts and ideas for assignments, lessons, and major projects.



DIGITAL REPOSITORY

Each of the president pages in the President's Vision website provides a link to the Humanities Texas Digital Repository, which includes high-res digital files of all of the primary sources featured on the posters, as well as additional resources placing each of the presidencies within the broader context of U.S. history. Click on the link in the box titled "Explore Resources" to find the materials related to each poster. You'll find that we have included materials in the Repository that represent critiques and/or counterarguments to each president's vision. Among the FDR materials, for example, are materials having to do with Alf Landon and Wendell Willkie, two critics of the New Deal.

You'll also see that many of the materials link to other related materials and teaching resources. Among the George Washington materials, for instance, is an image of Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. In addition to providing an image of our first Secretary of the Treasury, the page also hosts links to Hamilton's opinion on the constitutionality of a federal bank, as well as a link to Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson's opinion on the federal bank. The materials are selected to help students see the issues, contests, and conflicts and animated each president's term.

EXPLORE AND KEEP IN TOUCH

We hope that you find these materials enlightening, inspiring, and useful, and that you will contact our staff with questions, tips, recommendations, and stories of your putting these materials to use with your students. The program will become far stronger with the benefit of your guidance. Email Humanities Texas education staff at pv@humanitiestexas.org.