



# Turning Points in American History

Knowledge. Understanding. Perspectives.



“History is indeed an argument without end.”  
*Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.*

*Turning Points* is a federally-funded professional development program for grade 3-12 educators in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties as well as pre-service educators in the area’s colleges.

Build your own professional development plan with these FREE activities that take you into the depths of history, examine how understanding history helps us in the present, and enable you to make history come alive for your students!

## Who is Eligible?

- Teachers
  - Paraprofessionals
  - Special educators
  - Substitute teachers
  - School librarians
  - Undergraduate education majors
  - Graduate education students
- Independent, private & public schools

Funded by a United States Department of Education Teaching American History Grant and sponsored by South Burlington School District.

## Build Interpretations & Narratives Together

Each year, we offer:

*Scholar-led seminars* – read, listen to, and evaluate claims by a scholar and explore the use of primary sources with museum educators.

*Educator-led seminars* – provide innovative ways to teach American history.

*Book study groups* – study complex texts in literature and history.

*Primary source study groups* – analyze and interpret material culture from diverse perspectives, and write about the complex ideas and concepts they engender.

*National field studies* – visit significant historic sites to make connections across time and space, and better understand and empathize with historical events, people, and issues.

*Local field studies* – provide participants access to exhibits, archives, collections, and archaeological and conservation laboratories to better understand the connections among national, state, and local history.

*History internships* – work at local museums and other cultural heritage institutions.

*Mini grants* – allow participants to explore other areas of professional development in American history.

# Turning Points' Goals and Approach

The major objectives of this professional development program are to: 1) create inquiry-based study groups for teaching history, historical thinking, and historical writing skills; 2) add to existing knowledge for best practices in creating digital learning communities; 3) produce exciting new lessons for teaching with historical sites at all grade levels; 4) develop strong teacher leaders in historical pedagogy and institute new policies around peer-to-peer professional development; and 5) build strong school-museum partnerships.

**THEMES** to use in a local, state, or national history classroom.

- American democracy - change, controversies, and continuity - with an emphasis on freedom, justice, and equality.
- Gatherings, exchanges, and conflicts among people, cultures, and ideas.
- Economic and technological changes and their relationship to ideas, the environment, and peoples' lives.
- The changing role of America in the world and how that affects society.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS** to get to the heart and soul of history.

- On what principles were the Declaration of Independence and our state and national Constitutions based? How has our state and country lived up to or set aside those principles?
- How did people and significant events create or recreate our democratic principles, including freedom, justice, and equality? How does that continue today?
- What are the various perspectives on major controversies and turning points in American history, past and present?
- How have economic and technological changes affected the lives of various peoples and the course of our history? Were/are the changes positive or negative?
- What has changed? What has stayed the same in the midst of change? How do you evaluate those changes and continuities?
- What major turning points occurred in the eras we are examining? What was the nature and extent of their effects?

**SKILLS and PROCESSES** to adapt to the classroom.

- Assess the credibility of a source. Consider multiple perspectives.
- Formulate central historical questions.
- Analyze and interpret material culture for information about a period.
- Interpret causality and effects, intended and unintended.
- Define enduring issues across eras, and how they impact lives today.
- Write lucid historical narratives with clear analysis, logical arguments, and complex ideas and concepts suitable for your grade level.

## Seminars

### A. Scholar-led Seminars with Museum Sessions

These all day events include lectures followed by breakout sessions for discussions with the scholar and museum workshops.

**January 21:** Margaret Creighton, Bates College: The Civil War as a Turning Point in American History. University of Vermont, Marsh Lounge.

**April 1:** Mark Stoler, University of Vermont: WWII as a Turning Point in United States History. Location Vermont Veterans Militia Museum, Colchester, VT

6 hours per event credited toward stipends

### B. Educator-led seminar

This day long event involves modeling innovative methods for teaching American history.

**March 18:** EdTechTeacher – Integrating technology into history instruction. Location Alburgh Elementary School, Alburgh, VT

5 hours credited towards stipends

## Study Groups

### C. Book Study Group

Meeting the last Thursday of each month (Feb-May), this group will read and discuss new historical scholarship and children's literature on the Revolutionary Era, and educational works on how best to develop and lead classroom discussions using literature. Books will include: *A People's History of the American Revolution*; *The Muse*

## Programs for 2010-2011

Choose a single event in any category or multiple categories to receive certificates of attendance for relicensure. Attend at least 40 hours to be eligible for \$400 stipends and 60 hours for \$800! For HQT or graduate credit eligibility, attend all events in a category and complete a lesson plan, unit, or historical research project. Pay only \$120 per credit through Saint Michael's College.

*of the Revolution; Revolutionaries; Unlikely Allies; Spitfire; Chains; Just Jane; Changes for Felicity*

3 hours per class credited towards stipends

1 graduate credit for participation in all four classes

### D. Primary Source Study Groups

These half-day afternoon classes examine primary sources of the Revolutionary War era. Participants create engaging writing activities for use in the classroom. Facilitated by the Shelburne Museum and National Writing Project in Vermont.

There will be two study groups from which to choose.

Locations: St. Albans & Colchester

Franklin County	Chittenden County
Jan 25	Jan 27
Feb 17	Feb 15
Mar 15	Mar 17
Apr 12	Apr 14
May 10	May 12

4 hours per class credited towards stipends

2 graduate credits for participation in all five classes

## Summer Field Studies

Please sign up by March 10th

### E. National Field Study

*Winning the War, Winning the Peace*, June 26-July 3

All expense paid, traveling field study to Hubbardton Battlefield, Saratoga Battlefield, and West Point. Facilitated by Dr. Elise Guyette and the Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education. Participants create units based on the National Park Service's "Teaching with Historic Places."

20 spaces only!

40 hours credited towards stipends

3 graduate credits for participation

### F. Local Field Studies

Full day programs at local museums and archives.

July 9: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum & Mount Independence - Revolution War Era

July 16: Huntington & Jericho historical societies - Civil War & Reconstruction Era

July 23: Hinesburg & Williston historical societies - Revolutionary War Era

July 30: Sullivan Museum & Vermont Ski Museum - Contemporary America

August 6: Rokeby Museum & Charlotte Historical Society - Civil War & Reconstruction Era

August 13: Saint Albans & Fairfield historical societies - Civil War & Reconstruction Era

August 20: Alice T. Miner Museum & Alburgh Historical Society - Contemporary America

5 hours per day credited towards stipends

Participate in 3-5 days to receive 1 Re-licensure credit

Participate in 6-7 days to receive 2 Re-licensure credits

3 graduate credits for participation in all events and 35 hours credited toward stipends

# Other Program Opportunities

## Mini Grants

Grants of up to \$300 will be awarded to participants upon application. Awardees should have attended at least 40 hours of programs to apply. The grant funds activities and resources that will improve your knowledge and pedagogy in American history education.

## Leadership Opportunities

Four paid teacher-leader positions are available for active educators in Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties. The positions will be filled by application, and those selected will receive \$1,000 annually for their assistance to Turning Points.

## Internships

Each year, five internship positions will be awarded to participants interested in working collaboratively with a local history museum or other cultural heritage institution. Interns will be paid \$1,000 and are expected to work 100 hours on a project that will benefit them, their school, and the institution with which they are working.

## Program Information

### Credits

In addition to recertification and HQT credits, graduate credits are available through Saint Michael's College at a reduced fee (\$120 per credit) charged to the participant.

### Stipends

To receive a stipend, participants need to be enrolled either part-time (40 or more hours) or full time (at least 60 hours), work collegially, and produce lesson plans or complete historical research projects. Part-time participants will receive an honorarium of \$400; full-time participants will receive \$800. Stipends are awarded each August based upon a participant's enrollment.

### Substitutes

Reimbursement for the cost of substitutes is available upon request.

### Registration

To register for events, visit <http://turningpointsinamericanhistory.org> or [www.cvedcvt.org](http://www.cvedcvt.org).

### Contact Us

Further details about the program can be found on Turning Points' web site or by contacting us.

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“When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness.” *Alexis de Tocqueville*