



University of San Diego

CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

Experiencing America Series

Washington D.C. – National Archives & Postal Museum - EDU 590DS

Section A1 - Course Introduction

Welcome to the Experiencing America Series designed by the University of San Diego, Division of Continuing Education. The major focus of this Series is encouraging teachers to travel and experience our country by viewing, studying and reflecting on historical sites, museums, parks, and memorials. For complete information regarding the Experiencing America Series, please visit www.usd-online.org.

This section, Washington D.C., consists of 5 one semester unit courses: **The Three Houses of Government EDU 590DU, Monuments and Memorials EDU 590DT, Smithsonian I EDU 590DV, Smithsonian II EDU 590DW, National Archives & Postal Museum EDU 590DS.**

The fee for this course covers only the cost of the one semester unit tuition and one official transcript. Any travel expenses or admission fees are your responsibility. You will receive an official transcript from the University within three to four weeks of submitting satisfactory coursework. After the grade is posted, additional transcripts can be ordered online for \$5.00 at www.usd-online.org or by mail:

USD Continuing Education
Attention: Transcripts
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

After 3 to 4 weeks, questions regarding transcripts can be answered at (619) 260-4585. Information about other USD Independent Study Courses is available at: www.usd-online.org.

***Please note that the written assignments must be typed if possible, double-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" standard copy paper using 12 pt. font. Hand-written papers must be legible and easy to read.**

Section A2 - How to Proceed

- **Read the Course Objective – A3**
- **Read all Assignments**
- **Read Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – A4**
- **Visit** and investigate all required sites
- **Complete** all parts of **Assignments**
- **Make copies** of all course work for your records.
**Your mailed assignments will not be returned to you.*
- **Complete and Sign Passport/Affidavit Form** and mail with all completed **Assignments to:**

USD Continuing Education
Attn: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Section A3 - Course Objective / Grading Rubric

I. OBJECTIVE

After viewing, studying and reflecting on the required site(s) for this course, the participant will show that due to his/her participation he/she now has a greater understanding of the “American Experience.”

II. GRADING RUBRIC

Exemplary: A+ to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Must be resubmitted
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized and assignments are well labeled	Is generally well organized and assignments are well labeled	Shows little or no organization and assignments are poorly labeled.
Reflective pieces cover numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience	Some facts and specific details of learning experiences are included	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors. Difficult to read

Section A4 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Q. Whom do I contact if I have a question about the content of this course?
A. **You can e-mail questions to amex@usd-online.org or phone (916) 939-2449.**
- Q. How much time do I have to complete this course?
A. **You have nine months from the time of registration to complete all coursework.**
- Q. What if an emergency occurs and I need more than 9 months to complete my coursework?
A. **Please e-mail sandiego@usd-online.org or call (619) 260-4585 to request an extension. If one is granted, *it is final*.**
- Q. What if I change my name or address during this time.
A. **Login to your account at www.usd-online.org and edit your contact information as soon as possible AND also update your address with our receptionist by calling (619) 260-4585.**
- Q. Can I use both sides of the paper in completing the assignments?
A. **No. Although it may save paper, it makes your paper more difficult to read and may lead to a second side being missed in the grading process.**
- Q. Can I send completed work via e-mail or on a disk?
A. **No. All work must be sent in as hard copies. For your own protection, please make sure to keep copies of ALL your work. Your mailed assignments will not be returned to you.**
- Q. Can I send in each assignment as I complete it?
A. **No. All assignments must be sent in together upon completion of the entire course.**
- Q. What do I do when I have completed all the required coursework?
A. **There is a list of required assignments on the Passport/Affidavit Form. Check to make sure you have completed all items listed and have placed responses on separate pages with appropriate label at the top of the page (example: B1 - Assignment Title). Fill out the Passport/Affidavit Form and sign and date the form. Arrange the Assignments in numerical order and place the Passport/Affidavit Form on top. Mail all Assignments, along with the signed Passport/Affidavit Form to:**
- USD Continuing Education
Attn: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762**
- Q. Is there a required sequence for taking courses in the Experiencing America Series?
A. **No. Each course is independent.**

Part B - Assignments

All completed **Assignments** must be placed on separate pages with the appropriate label at the top (example B1 – Assignment title) and mailed together for grading. Please place **Passport/Affidavit Form** on top of all **Assignments**.

National Archives and Postal Museum

Visit the following sites in Washington D.C.:

- **National Archives**
700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW between 7th and 9th Streets
- **National Postal Museum**
2 Massachusetts Ave. NE at 1st Street

Part I National Archives

B1 – Building- Thinking and Feeling

The National Archives building is an impressive example of neoclassical architecture with a Corinthian Colonnade. After observing it from both the outside and inside, reflect on how it impressed you as both a thinking and a feeling person.

Label Assignment B1 – Building

B2 – Charters of Freedom – Learned and Relearned

The Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom displays our country's most important original documents: The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution of the United States, and The Bill of Rights. Give a detailed account of what you learned or relearned while viewing these documents.

Label Assignment B2 – Charters of Freedom

Public Vaults

Artifacts, documents and interactive technology are used in the public vaults to tell the story of our country's development in the use of records. Six areas make up the vaults: 1) Record of America, 2) We the People, 3) Form a More Perfect Union, 4) Provide for the Common Defense, 5) Promote the General Welfare, and 6) To Ourselves and our Posterity.

B3 – Record of America–Examples

Along the hallway from the entrance to the exit of the Public Vaults, you will find the **Record of America** as it goes from a letter to the continental congress to the first presidential website. Give examples of these records as they go through time and technology.

Label Assignment B3 – Record of America

B4 – We the People–Schools and Teachers

Stories entitled “**We the People**”(about the lives of ordinary Americans) are told in a room on the right as you enter the Public Vaults. Find some documents concerning schools and teachers and describe them.

Label Assignment B4 – We the People

B5 – Form a More Perfect Union – Triumph & Struggle

On the left of the entrance is the **Form a More Perfect Union** room. Here you will find records showing the evolution of America’s democracy. From this section give an example of a triumph and one of a struggle in our journey to become “*One Nation with Liberty and Justice for All.*”

Label Assignment B5 – Form a More Perfect Union

B6 – Provide for the Common Defense – Zimmerman Telegram

Provide for the Common Defense is a room on the left as you head toward the exit. Find the section about the Zimmerman Telegram. After studying the display, explain what it was and its importance.

Label Assignment B6 – Provide for the Common Defense

B7 – Promote the General Welfare – Exploring and Expanding

Promote the General Welfare is a room to the right of the exit. Describe the documents in the room concerning Lewis and Clark and the struggle for the Pacific North West

Label Assignment B7- Promote the General Welfare

B8 - To Ourselves and Our Posterity

On the left of the exit is **To Ourselves and Our Posterity** room. Describe in detail the document that most interested you and why it intrigued you.

Label Assignment B8 – To Ourselves and Our Posterity

Part II National Postal Museum

Housed in the Old City Post Office Building
2 Massachusetts Avenue at 1st Street, NE

B9- Tracing Events

Mail touches everyone, making the boundaries of postal history limitless. Find the gallery “**Binding the Nation.**” This gallery traces events from colonial times through the 19th Century. Briefly comment on the events presented in this gallery.

Label Assignment B9 – Tracing Events

B10 – Your Choice

Comment on **one** of the following areas found in the museum: 1) **Customers and Communities**, 2) **The Art of Cards and Letters**, 3) **The Duck Stamp Story**, 4) **Stymies and Stories**, 5) **Franklin Foyer**, and 6) **Discovery Center**.

Label Assignment B10 – Your Choice



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Passport / Affidavit Form

Ask a representative at each site to sign/stamp and date in the space below.

In addition, attach to this page any other evidence you have to document your experience. You can use items such as tickets (or photos of tickets) and photos of you in and around the required sites.

Instructions:

- Complete the Student Information section
- Sign and date the Passport/Affidavit Form
- Place the Passport/Affidavit Form on top of all Assignments and mail to:
USD Continuing Education
Attn: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Student Information

Name _____ SS# (last 4 digits) _____

Address _____
Street _____ City _____ State/zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

District _____ School _____

Grade level/subject _____

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1 – Building | <input type="checkbox"/> B5 – Form a More Perfect Union | <input type="checkbox"/> B9 – Tracing Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B2 – Charters of Freedom | <input type="checkbox"/> B6 – Provide for the Common Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> B10 – Your Choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B3 – Record of America | <input type="checkbox"/> B7 – Promote the General Welfare | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B4 – We the People | <input type="checkbox"/> B8 – To Ourselves & Our Posterity | |

I _____ verify that I did visit **ALL REQUIRED SITES** for National Archives & Postal Museum EDU 590DS and **ALL WRITTEN RESPONSES** are my own original comments.

Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE: Grade _____ By _____ Date _____