



# University of San Diego

CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

## Experiencing America Series

### Washington D.C. – The Three Houses of Government - EDU 590DU

#### 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](http://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](http://www.usd-online.org) or by mail:

USD Continuing Education  
Attention: Transcripts  
5998 Alcala 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 **Affidavit Form** on top of all **Assignments**.

### Washington D.C. – The Three Houses of Government

#### Part I The Capitol

East Capitol Street at 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW

**Preferred Requirement** – Official Tour of the Capitol

You have two ways of participating in an official tour of the capitol building.

- Option 1 – Contact your congressman or senator at least one month in advance to obtain a group pass on the date you wish to take the tour. The pass will be mailed to you.
- Option 2 – Be at the Capitol by 5:30 a.m. of the morning of the day you wish to tour. There is a limited number of passes that are given on a first come first serve basis. The first tour begins at 9:00 a.m.

#### **B1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative Requirement – Senate or House Gallery visit**

Drop by your representative or senator's office in the Capitol building to obtain a pass to witness your congressperson in action. Place your pass (or a photo of it) along with a picture of you with the Capitol in the background on a paper labeled at the top **B1- 1<sup>st</sup> Alternative Requirement**. Make comments about this experience. What bill was debated and who said what and what you thought of it. Describe the gallery and the building.

*Or*

#### **B1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternative Requirement – On Your Own**

Place a picture of you with the Capitol in the background on a paper that is label at the top **B1- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternative Requirement**. Under the picture you will divide the paper into six sections (You may need more than one page). 1) Crypt, 2) Rotunda, 3) National Statuary Hall, 4) The House Gallery, 5) The Senate Gallery, and 6) The Outside Building. Under the label of each of these six sections, give a physical description and a brief reflection on your feelings.

## Part II The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

### **B2 - Preferred Requirement**

To receive a tour of the White House, you have to call your representative or senator's office two months in advance, but not as far out as six months. You must be in a group of 10 or more. About one month in advance of your trip you will receive a confirmation number and detailed time of your tour. For course documentation, either your confirmation letter or a photo of it along with a picture of you going into the White House should be placed on a sheet of paper labeled at the top **B2- Preferred Requirement**. Also make a brief statement describing both the physical layout and your own feelings about your White House Experience.

*or*

### **B2-Alternative Requirement – The White House Visitor Center**

If you cannot get into the White House, you can take a self-tour of the White House Visitor's Center located at 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW between 14<sup>th</sup> St. and 15<sup>th</sup> St. Label the top of a sheet of paper **B2-White House Visitors Center**. Obtain a brochure about the White House Visitors Center and attach it to the back of your labeled page. Divide your paper into six sections. 1) Architecture History, 2) Symbol and Image, 3) First Families, 4) The Working White House, 5) Ceremony and Celebration, and 6) White House Interiors, Past and Present. Comment on each of these six sections.

## Part III The Supreme Court

1<sup>st</sup> Street NE between E. Capitol St. and Maryland Ave. NE

### **B3 – Preferred Requirement – Case Being Argued**

The court allots only 150 first-come first-serve seats to hear a case being argued. Therefore arrive early (as many as 3 hours early depending on the popularity of the case). Call (202) 479-3211 or check website [www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov) to obtain the Supreme Court argument calendar. If you do hear a case argued, you will want to do this Preferred Requirement.

Put your ticket or a photo of it and a picture of yourself with the Supreme Court in the background on a sheet of paper labeled at the top **B3- Preferred Requirement**. Write a brief synopsis of the case you heard along with a physical description of the inside and outside of the building. Also describe how you felt about your Supreme Court experience.

*or*

### **B3- Alternative Assignment**

If you are unable to witness a Supreme Court case being argued, you then can tour the building on your own. Free lecture tours are given every hour on the half hour from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A 24 minute film is shown (down the first flight of steps from the Great Hall). Label the top of the page **B3- Alternative Assignment**. Place a picture of yourself in front of the Supreme Court Building under the label. Under the picture write an informational log gleaned from your tour and a physical and emotional description of the outside and inside of the building.



## Washington D.C. – The Three Houses of Government - EDU 590DU 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**

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### Student Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SS# (last 4 digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level/subject \_\_\_\_\_

- B1 – Capitol (or Alternative)  
 B2 – White House (or Alternative)  
 B3 – Supreme Court (or Alternative)

I \_\_\_\_\_ verify that I did visit **ALL REQUIRED SITES** for **The Three Houses of Government EDU 590DU** and **ALL WRITTEN RESPONSES** are my own original comments.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE: Grade \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_