



Experiencing America Series

Washington D.C. – Smithsonian I - EDU 590DV

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**.

Washington D.C. – Smithsonian I

Visit the following sites in Washington D.C.:

- **National Museum of the American Indian**
4th St. and Independence Ave. SW.
- **Arts and Industries Building**
900 Jefferson Dr. SW - next to the Smithsonian Castle
- **Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum**
Pennsylvania Ave. at 17th St. NW one block west of the Whitehouse:

Part I National Museum of American Indian

B1 – The Outside

It was very important for the American Indian to feel connected with the land. Explore the grounds and the outside structure of the building before going inside. Describe the grounds and the outside structure and discuss how it represents the land that connects to the people presented inside.

Label Assignment B1 – The Outside

B2 – The Potomac

Soaring 120 feet to the top of the dome and spanning more than 100 feet in diameter, the Potomac is the very heart of the Museum building-- the sum of its universe. Describe this physical /emotional point of entry to the museum and give the meaning of the word *Potomac*.

Label Assignment B2 – The Potomac

B3 – Something for Every Discipline

Choose a teaching discipline – math, language arts, social studies, P.E., music, art, science or any other. As you go through the museum, describe every place where that discipline is found. Be sure to name the exhibit and its location in the museum and identify how it relates to your chosen discipline.

Label Assignment B3 – Something for Every Discipline

Part II

- **The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum**
- **The Arts and Industries Building**

B4 – Compare and Contrast

After visiting and viewing both the Arts and Industries Building and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, write a one to two page compare and contrast report on the two buildings including the contents within the buildings. Be sure to give specific examples.

Label Assignment B4 – Compare and Contrast



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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 _____

B1 – The Outside
 B2 – The Potomac

B3 – Something for Every Discipline
 B4 – Compare & Contrast

I _____ verify that I did visit **ALL REQUIRED SITES** for **Smithsonian I EDU 590DV** and **ALL WRITTEN RESPONSES** are my own original comments.

Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE: Grade _____ By _____ Date _____