Eighth Grade Social Studies

**Course title:**  U.S. History

**Overarching theme:**  Freedom

**Brief overview:**

*First Semester:*  Independence to Civil War with emphasis on the American Testament (The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution)

*Second Semester:*  Civil War to Watergate (Wishful thinking!)

**Primary text:** History Alive! The United States

**Secondary texts:**  Freedom: A History of US, American History: The Modern Era Since 1865, and Junior Scholastic Magazine

**Other materials:**  primary, secondary, and tertiary sources; A/V materials, worksheets, maps, Assignment the World television program, etc.

**Study skills emphasized:**  SQ3R, organizing a notebook, and taking notes from written material

**Social Studies skills emphasized:**  geography skills; reading and interpreting timelines; reading and interpreting graphs, cartoons, charts, and pictures and other visual representations

**Methods of instruction:**  reading, lecturing, discussing, viewing/listening to A/V materials, working with a SMART Board, use of a laptop computer, use of graphic organizers, note-taking, visual lectures, experiential exercises, skill builders, response groups, problem solving groupwork, and writing for understanding

**Typical unit procedure**:  preview unit (includes activating prior knowledge and identifying essential historical question to be answered); classroom learning activity, and processing what was learned; assessment (tests, quizzes, etc.)

**Grading:**  school’s percentage scale is used with points assigned to a variety of assignments, quizzes, and tests; bonus is available (see Extra Credit policy)