

Facing History and Ourselves

Choosing to Participate: Connections to Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Choosing to Participate engages students in conversations about civics and democracy, choices and community, empathy and respect. The exhibit focuses on a time in American history when people were struggling to expand democratic traditions and strengthen democratic ideals, with stories drawn from the 1950s, early 1960s, 1980s and 1990s. The stories and themes of *Choosing to Participate* connect to a number of Massachusetts curriculum frameworks in both History and Social Science and English Language Arts, as well as to broad learning goals in each of these disciplines. Learning standards, concepts and skills that are supported by *Choosing to Participate* are listed below.

History and Social Science

Themes

“The evolution of the concepts of personal freedom, individual responsibility, and the respect for human dignity”

“The influence of economic, political, religious, and cultural ideas as human societies move beyond regional, national, or geographic boundaries”

Concept and Skills, Grades 8-12

7. Show connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and ideas and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments. (H, G, C, E)

8. Interpret the past within its own historical context rather than in terms of present-day norms and values. (H, E, C)

10. Distinguish historical fact from opinion. (H, E, C)

Learning Standards

U.S. History I: The Formation and Framework of American Democracy:

USI.19 Explain the rights and the responsibilities of citizenship and describe how a democracy provides opportunities for citizens to participate in the political process through elections, political parties, and interest groups. (H, C)

USI.21 Describe how decisions are made in a democracy, including the role of legislatures, courts, executives, and the public. (H, C)

USII.25 Analyze the origins, goals, and key events of the Civil Rights movement. (H)

Events: C. the 1957-1958 Little Rock School Crisis

English Language Arts

Language Strand

Standard 1: Discussion

Students will use agreed-upon rules for informal and formal discussion in small and large groups.

Standard 2: Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussion or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.