

Makematic

Best Practice Video Guide

The logo for 'UNTOLD' features the word 'UN' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, which are partially obscured by a dark blue, textured, brush-stroke-like background. To the right of 'UN', the word 'TOLD' is written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters.

Stories You Won't Learn About In A Textbook

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| History And Civics Isn't Dead..... | 3 |
| The Power Of Storytelling | 4 |
| Getting The Most Out Of The Resource | 5 |
| Tips For Using Video In The Classroom | 8 |
| Activities To Engage..... | 9 |
| Activities To Explore | 11 |
| Activities To Empower..... | 12 |
| Museum Of Artifacts That Made America | 13 |
| Hidden Figures..... | 17 |
| America Explained..... | 20 |
| Developing Critical Thinking Through Questions | 22 |

History and Civics Isn't Dead

Perhaps now, more than ever, our history and being civically engaged is a vital and very present part of the world around us.

So it's hugely important that young people feel a part of that conversation and can see themselves reflected in our shared past and present.

Untold is a collection of short, compelling, history and civics videos and animations designed to engage new audiences in a new conversation and

- shine a light on the stories that don't always make it into the classroom
- and questions what we *think* we know about those that do

Not everything worth knowing exists inside the cover of our textbooks. Untold is here to fill in the gaps and bring new stories to life.

Untold works with a growing list of museums, foundations and historical societies. These partners bring expertise, unique insights, amazing source materials and funding. And they share our passion for using video to engage young audiences in history and civics.



The Power of Storytelling

Untold harnesses the power of storytelling to tell stories that are often not told in the classroom.

Why stories?

To start with they are memorable. In fact [when we tell stories instead of facts they are at least 22 times more memorable.](#)

We also know that educators use storytelling to attract interest and to assist understanding. They use it to socialize, communicate, improve literacy and comprehension, help students remember, increase empathy and encourage cooperation. And, it's being used in every discipline and with every kind of learning and teaching.

[Evolution has hardwired our brains for storytelling.](#) You might be surprised to hear that our brains actually become more active when we tell and listen to stories, that's because our whole brain is working. As an educator it can be challenging to find the right stories, and in video form, well that can sometimes be almost impossible. Educators are already spending way too much time scouring YouTube for classroom content. One [study](#) found that 34% of educators are struggling to find time to search for videos, and another that educators spend up to [seven hours each week](#) searching for additional instructional resources. We don't know about you, but we'd rather be doing any number of other things instead of that.

That's why Untold was created. To harness the power of storytelling and take it into not just the history and civics class, but across the curriculum.

Getting The Most Out Of The Resource

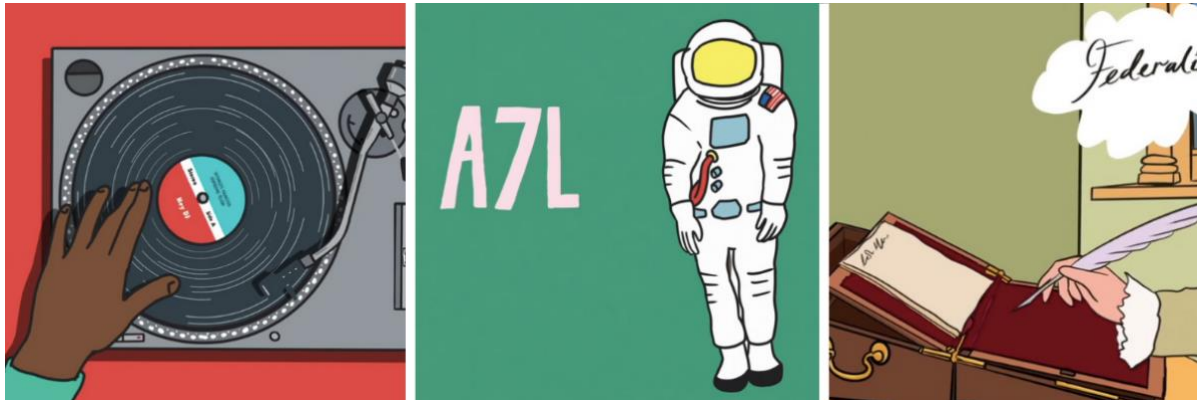
This resource is a **collection of bite-sized videos** and **animated assets** that are designed to:

- **Share** stories about people, objects, movements and key events in American history that are not shared in traditional textbooks. This means there is a heavy focus on minority groups or underrepresented voices.
- **Teach** students about key civics and history themes in an interesting and compelling way.
- **Develop** students key historical skills - empathy, critical thinking, multiple perspectives, cause and effect.
- **Raise** awareness of the key historical events, themes and issues in American history.
- **Drive** youth engagement and **spark** discussion around key civic and historical issues.
- **Empower** young people to take action and share the stories and videos with others to talk about key historical and civic themes.

We've organized these resources into themes.

Museum of Artifacts That Made America:

This series takes place in a fully virtual reality fantasy museum of real historical American objects! Each film explains the historical relevance and detail of the object, whilst providing an informative context. From the first video games to the cotton gin; how do the inventions of the past impact the world around us today?



Hidden Figures:

This series of full frame animations tells the stories of important historical Americans whose stories are not widely known. The viewer will learn about each icon's life and major achievements and the impact they had on American society – from the “Robin Hood of Harlem” to the greatest athlete of the 20th century.



America Explained:

This series explores America's history and how it impacts today's society – from the Founding Mothers, to what marijuana tells us about States' rights.



Coming Soon!

The Arts:

This series will look at how a piece of American art or movement impacted the world. It will look at what impacted it as well as the impact it had at the time and of course today. The arts will include: visual art, dance, music, architecture, theatre, literature. We'll be looking at the architecture and symbolism of the White House, the influence and impact of Native American Tattoo Art to the radio Broadcast 'War of the Worlds' and the advent of fake news.

Education As a Civil Right:

What do we actually mean by rights and what impact does it have if it's not provided? This and many other questions will be explored in this series. It will look carefully at the key figures in the fight for education reform and change and continue to ask the question - Is education the civil rights issue of today?

Tips for Using Video In The Classroom

These resources have been designed to:

- **Engage** students in their learning.
- **Inspire** students to develop their own knowledge of American history and civics.
- **Empower** students to teach others about the themes and issues in American history and civil life.

So, ~~to get you started~~ we've suggested a few activities in a three-part structure to:

- **Engage** the students before they watch,
- **Explore** the themes or ideas whilst they watch, and
- **Empower** students to take the themes and ideas further after they watch them.

All of these activities can be used in face to face and online teaching environments.

| | |
|---|---|
| ENGAGE with the video before you watch it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ KWL Chart○ Make Predictions○ Give A Purpose To Watching○ Activate Prior Knowledge○ Things You Didn't Know |
| EXPLORE whilst watching the video. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pause and Interact○ P-M-I (Plus, Minus, Interesting)○ Taking Notes |
| EMPOWER after the video is finished. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sound Bites○ Video Creators○ Solve a Problem○ Were You Paying Attention○ Concept Maps |

Activities To Engage

*Here are some activities that we suggest students do **BEFORE** watching the videos.*

K-W-L Chart

Ask students to create a KWL Chart. A KWL chart has three columns that students fill in before they watch the film.

| What to K now about the topic | W ant to know | What They've L earned |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | | |

This activity will help students **activate prior knowledge and reflect** on what they've learned or discovered.

Make Predictions

Ask students to make **predictions** about what the video or animation is about, the period it is set etc. They will need to explain why they made the prediction and after watching the video discuss how accurate or inaccurate they were. You can use the video or animation title or images to make predictions.

Give a Purpose To Watching

Giving students a purpose for watching a video will help them focus their attention on what you want them to learn or think about. Use phrases like

- “You are looking for ...”
- “After watching you will ...”
- “As you watch, pay attention to ...”

Activate Prior Knowledge

In pairs or groups ask students to share with others what they already know about the theme or topic of the video. Get them to record their responses and they use their original notes to frame a reflection at the end of the lesson.

Things You Didn't Know

See Museum of Artifacts that Made America page for the full activity.

Activities To Explore

Here are some activities that we suggest students do WHILE watching the videos.

Pause and Interact

Pause the video at different stages and ask purposeful open and closed questions. Make sure you mix the questions up. That means asking factual, “What if?” and probing questions as well as questions that allow students to either make predictions or offer their opinions.

Plus, Minus, Interesting (PMI)

Whilst watching the video, ask students to make a note of what looks good (plus), not so good (minus) and interesting about the video or animations themes, person or object. Later students can compare their notes with others and reflect on points of similarity and difference.

Note-taking

Ask students to take notes whilst watching the video. Students can add sketches to their notes to help them retain information and explore interesting ideas. You’ll need to tell students what to look for or pose an essential question to the set of questions that they need to ponder whilst watching.

Activities To Empower

Here are some activities that we suggest students do AFTER watching the videos.

Sound Bites

Ask students to use the phrase “Did you know...?” to create short sound bites to share with the class. The sound bite will relate either to the content of the video, overall theme or to additional research they have conducted that directly relates to the video theme or content.

Video or Podcast Creators

Choose a theme, artifact or hidden figure and create a short film or podcast where students can share what they’ve learned. This video or podcast can be used to educate others about what they’ve learned and so they better understand American history and civic life.

Solve a Problem

Get students to use the information from the video to answer an essential question or solve a problem that relates to the video's theme or historical context.

Were You Paying Attention

Get students to write three questions about a video for a classmate to answer. Ask them to give their questions to a classmate, and have them either write or say the answers to the questions.

Concept Maps

Students can create concept maps based on prior knowledge and new ideas gleaned from the video segments or the whole video. It may be around the theme of the video, the person, or the artifact.

Museum Of Artifacts That Made America

Using Artifacts Videos In The Classroom

Understanding the origins and significance of artifacts is very important. That's because we often take material objects for granted, but when we delve deeper it can be surprising what can be discovered.

Here are three activities that you could use when using the Museum of Artifacts That Made America in your classroom.

Things You Didn't Know

Use this activity before watching the video in face-to-face and online teaching environments.

1. Divide the students into **five or six groups**. Assign the group themes or topics. Either provide groups with a series of images, videos, still and articles about their topic, or give them some classroom research time to do some research. For example: if you were using the Chapstick Spying Device video, your five themes could be: The Cold War, President Nixon's presidency, Watergate, Cold War Espionage, Key events in the 1970s.
2. Using their assigned resources, each group will develop a list of five 'things they didn't know' about their assigned topic. To create their lists, students can use large sheets of paper and markers or post-it-notes.
3. When groups finish creating their lists, ask each group to share their five facts. Ask groups to provide evidence as to why the facts they chose are important to know.
4. Combine each group's list of five 'things you didn't know' to create a collaborative list of Things You Didn't Know. These can be displayed somewhere in the classroom, on post-it notes or digitally using a tool like [Trello](#).
5. This activity can be extended to incorporate less or more groups. But make sure that each group shares five things to the class.

A-E-I-O-U

Use this activity during and after watching the video in face-to-face and online teaching environments.

Explain the activity to the students before watching the video. They will watch the video, without taking notes and will be required to fill in an A-E-I-O-U chart afterwards. Tell the students that they'll watch the video twice.

1. Show the students the A-E-I-O-U chart and answer questions they may have about it.
2. Watch the video, but do not let students take notes.
3. Once the video has finished, ask the students to fill in their A-E-I-O-U charts individually, in partners or groups.
4. Watch the video one more time, and allow students to further add to their chart.
5. Get students to share what they learned, and discuss the questions that have been posed as a class. If the class is online, they can share their responses in the chat function, by sharing screens, shared documents or in breakout rooms.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| A (Adjective) | Write one or two adjectives to describe something you learned or saw. |
| E (Emotion) | Describe how the video made you feel. |
| I (Interesting) | Write something you found interesting about the video. |
| O (Oh!) | Describe something that caused you to think, "Oh!" |
| U (Um?) | Write a question about something you'd like to learn more about. |

A History Of [Your Town/City] In 30 Artifacts

Use this activity after watching the video

This one has been inspired by a [New York Historical Society](#) teen project in 2012, which was in turn inspired by the book by *A History of the World in 100 Objects*.

Get each student to choose an artifact that reveals a piece of your town or city's history and write a story about it. When pieced together, the artifacts tell the story of the town/city's history and demonstrate the important role artifacts have in telling that story.

Check our list of season one's artifacts below.

| | |
|--|---|
| The A7L Space Suit | It's one small step for fashion, one giant leap for space exploration. This is the story of the A7L Space Suit, worn by none-other than Neil Armstrong: an American artifact that's out of this world! |
| The Negro League Baseball | This is the story of how African American baseball players overcame racial segregation to claim the national pastime of Baseball as their own. Batter up, play ball! |
| Tennis for Two | This video game might be basic but without this, you wouldn't have what you can play today on your consoles! In this video, we will explain the story of Tennis for Two: America's very first video game. |
| Five-Shot Colt Patterson | Killing zombies online is fun, right? But imagine you could only shoot one bullet at a time. You'd be TOAST! This is the story of the American, five-shot Colt Paterson: a handgun that changed history. |
| DJ Kool Herc's Turntables | Hip hop culture has infiltrated every aspect of American life but back in 1970's New York, two topics defined the era: disco music and crime. Over in the Bronx, 16-year-old Jamaican immigrant Clive Campbell (aka. DJ Kool Herc) wasn't a fan of either. This is the story of how DJ Kool Herc made New York the birthplace of hip hop. |
| Keds, America's First Sneakers | The oldest shoes ever found in America may date back 9000 years ago but they were made of just bark! However, wanna know how sneakers got their name? They're so quiet you can wear them to sneak up on anyone! This is the story of Keds, the sneakers that sparked a footwear revolution in not just America but the whole world! |
| Alexander Hamilton's Writing Desk | The average American will send and receive around 3,000 text messages every month. Imagine if you had to write yours with a quill! This is the story of Alexander Hamilton; the Founding Father who used this precursor to the laptop to draft some of the most important documents in US history! |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Chapstick Spying Device | 21st century spies have some serious tech at their disposal but back in the 1970's, things were a little more DIY. This is the story of a spy device disguised as chapstick tubes that played a key part in America's most infamous burglary, *hint* It involves Nixon. |
| The Windshield Wiper | The first mass-produced car in America was basically a lawnmower with leather trim, but it was a start, right? This is the story of Mary Anderson and the Windshield Wiper - an invention that happened by a stroke of fate! |
| The Ruby Laser | Lasers aren't just for sci-fi fans. We use them to scan barcodes in shopping malls, conduct surgeries, even get rid of bad decisions we'd rather forget! This is the story of the first laser ever made - right here in the U.S of A! |
| Statue of Liberty | Did you know? Immigrants have helped build America from the ground up. This symbol of freedom and democracy, the Statue of Liberty has been welcoming immigrants and visitors to New York Harbor since 1875. However, France offered to build the monumental statue, America agreed to construct the base but things didn't quite go according to plan! |
| Harvard Printing Press | Thanks to modern technology, you don't even have to get out of bed to find out what's going on in the world, but in the early days of America, news travelled slow. This is the story of the Harvard Printing Press that changed everything! |
| Abraham Lincoln's Top Hat | Hats off to Abraham Lincoln - our tallest POTUS in US history! His top hat alone added eight inches onto his frame but this is the story of how without his iconic Top Hat, he may never have been our 16th President! |
| Skidi Star Chart | Whatever your opinion is of astrology: people have been looking to the night skies for signs since... well, forever! This is the story of the Skidi Star Chart, one of the finest horoscopes ever created, all thanks to the Pawnee Tribe of Native America. |
| The Cotton Gin | In this video, we'll explain the story of the infamous, cotton gin - an 18th century invention used by African-American slaves that changed the United States for the better and the worse. |

Season two to be released late 2020. It will feature objects like the Betsy Ross Flag, Hinged Prosthetics, The Afro Comb and the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

You can keep an eye out for updates at

[UntoldEdu - YouTube](#) | [Untold History - Website](#)

Hidden Figures

Using Hidden Figures in the Classroom

Telling stories to engage and inspire young people is something that educators do every day. To make Hidden Figures easy to use, we've created a list of season 1 and 2 and included the video themes so that you can easily find videos that suit the needs of your curriculum.

Season 1 was created in collaboration with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and Driving Force Institute. These videos are being released on a weekly basis.



| Season 1 | Themes |
|---|---|
| Marie Van Brittan Brown | Women's history, STEM, black history, 1960s, innovation |
| Stephanie St. Clair, AKA Madame Queenie | Women's history, black history, 1920s, prohibition, social justice, community activism, education, Harlem renaissance |
| Bob Fletcher | World War II, Japanese internment, good deeds, racism |
| Jovita Idar | Women's history, Mexican-American stories, racism, journalism, social justice |
| Frances Oldham Kelsey | Women's history, STEM, scientist, thalidomide, drugs, whistleblower |
| Nellie Bly | Women's history investigative journalism, travel, mental asylum |
| Hedy Lamar | Women's history, Golden Age of Hollywood, STEM, World War II, innovation, sexism |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Jim Thorpe | Native American history, sport, Olympian, early 20th century |
| Claudette Colvin | Women's history, black history, segregation, Jim Crow, civil rights |
| John Rollin Ridge | Native American, novelist, journalist, social justice, racism, Gold Rush, Cherokee Indians, Treaty of Echota, Trail of Tears, outlaw, slavery |
| Bayard Rustin | LGBTQ+ rights, civil rights, black history, Quaker, Civil Rights Act, activist |
| Barbara Jordan | Women's history, black history, public speaking, politics, multiple sclerosis, Richard Nixon's impeachment, activist |

Season 2 is currently in production for release **October 2020.**

For this season we have collaborated with the [New York Historical Society](#) (NYHS) and Driving Force Institute.



All videos tell the story of women who have done amazing things in American history. They form part of the NYHS [Women and The American Story](#) (WAMS) and the New York [Historical Society student historian internship program](#). The teenagers in the program co-produced the videos.

| Season 2 | Themes |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Chien-Shiung Wu | Women's history, World War II, Manhattan Project, Asian-American, STEM, scientist, racism, Nobel Prize |
| Elizabeth Freeman | Women's history, black history, abolitionist, slavery, American Revolution, patriot, freedom |
| Emma Tenayuca | Women's history, Latina history, labor activist, Great Depression, racial inequalities, injustice, unionism, public speaking, Communism, FBI |
| Ida B. Wells | Women's history, black history, journalist, anti-lunching activist, Civil War, slavery, Reconstruction |
| Lorenda Holmes | Women's history, American Revolution, loyalist spy, torture, |
| Malitzen | Women's history, Aztec & Mayan empires, Cortes, interpreter, slavery, Spanish conquest, mixed race children |
| Thomas(ine) Hall | Women's history, colonial Virginia, LGBTQ+, gender non-conformist, gender norms |
| Zitkala-Sa | Women's history, Native American history, advocate, activist, civil rights, author, educator, Sioux Indians, Native Americans' US citizenship |

You can keep an eye out for updates at

[UntoldEdu - YouTube](#) | [Untold History - Website](#)

America Explained

This series explores America's history and how it impacts today's society – from the Founding Mothers to what marijuana tells us about States' rights. But what are the videos that are included in this series?

Check out the titles and descriptions below.

| | |
|--|--|
| Get Schooled: How The Electoral College Works | Imagine if the United States Presidential Election was a talent show, only the public doesn't vote for them. That – to be honest – is how the Electoral College works. |
| “You're Fired!” How To Get Rid Of The President | None of the 45 US Presidents have been given the boot, despite, on occasion, doing some pretty questionable things. So what does it really take to get fired as Commander-in-Chief? |
| How The Census Changed America | In 2020, the 23rd US census took place. A census gives us a better understanding of what America looks like; how society is changing; and what it needs. In this video, we will explain the census further along with why slaves were only partly favored to be included in certain states and whether the latest census is an accurate representation of modern-day USA. |
| Hotbox History: Is The United States Really United? | In 2019, anyone over the age of 21 can legally buy cannabis in Denver, Colorado but if you were to hotbox it across state lines, you could end up being arrested for blazing up in Nebraska. So why is there one law for one state and another law for the next? Isn't the United States supposed to be... you know, united? |
| Your Country Needs YOU! Selective Service (SSS) | In peaceful times, the US Armed Forces are well stocked with brave men and women who voluntarily sign up to serve. However, in the event of a third catastrophic global conflict, it is possible for the U.S. government to rapidly recruit from the civilian population, thanks to the Selective Service System. In this video, we will find out where it comes from and how compulsory it really is. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Stand Up To ICE: How Young People Are Protesting For A Fairer America | In 2017, there were 10.5 million undocumented immigrants living in America: people who entered the country illegally; or who stayed after their work visas ran out. For them, The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is all too real. In this video series we will discuss the young men and women utilizing the First Amendment to fight for immigrants and against ICE. |
| What Makes A State A State? | Ever heard of the bizarre law in New York & North Carolina that prohibits donkeys sleeping in bathtubs? What's up with that?! In this video, we will explain exactly where that came from while divulging how State Law differs from Federal Law, it goes all the way back to our Founding Fathers! |
| Is Now The Time To Talk About Guns? | Gun control in the U.S. has been a loaded term here for decades. In this video, we delve further into that controversial, Second Amendment, the NRA and the students vying to change the American right to bear arms. |
| Who Has The Right To Vote: A History | Did you know, Puerto Rico pays U.S. taxes but can't vote for our President? How about, that in Chicago, between 2006 and 2016, 199 dead people managed to vote from beyond the grave 229 times! Democracy may be our fundamental principle here in America, but let's explain how it can be improved. |
| What Is The Significance of 1619? | In 2026, America celebrates its 250th birthday! But four hundred years ago, back in 1619 three significant events happened that forever changed America. In this video, we'll go through them and explain how they relate to our Founding Mothers, Slavery and the Virginia General Assembly. |
| The Battle of Sexes Continues! | Although half of Americans are female, women make up just 25% of Congress. For every dollar a man earns in America, his female colleagues can expect to make on average just 79 cents. But women have been treated unfairly in America since day one. In this video, we reopen the age-old Battle of the Sexes debate and see just how much further we can come in America. |
| America: Nation of Immigrants | Here in America, the debate around immigration is getting louder and more polarized. Some people think we should close our borders to almost everyone, whereas others believe that shutting out the world is hypocritical because America has always been a nation of immigrants. In this video, let's talk all about that while providing some additional insight along the way. |

| | |
|--|---|
| The History of Birth Control | In 1967, Gregory Pincus and John Rock invented the Pill: a revolutionary oral contraceptive, that finally freed American women to explore their sexuality without fear of falling pregnant. However, to be honest, not everyone thought contraception was a good idea. In this video, we'll discuss both sides of the argument and how The Pill could be better improved for the present. |
| Could Veganism Save The World? | In 2019, 2% of Americans classed themselves as vegan, It's a number that's growing all the time. So what's the appeal? In this video, we'll delve into the pros and cons of Veganism and see if Mother Earth would be happiest if everyone did turn vegan after all. |
| Is America Doing Enough To Go Green? | With global greenhouse gas emissions at record levels, we will explain how America is doing in the fight against global warming and answer whether the government is putting the economy above the interests of planet Earth. |
| How Prostitution Built The Wild West | Putting the 'wild' into the wild west. In this video, we will explain what a 'soiled dove' is and how controversial figures used their wealth to build and define our United States of America from the ground up! |
| Are You Being Spied On? | The idea that we're living in a Big Brother state, with the US government monitoring our activity, isn't a conspiracy theory... it's real – and for the most part, it's totally legal. But what about the Fifth Amendment? In this video we delve into America's past to the present of spying on its own citizens and whether it is a force of good or a breach of our human rights. |
| Can America's War On Drugs Ever Be Won? | As our understanding of the consequences of drug abuse has improved, so has America's relationship with drugs changed. From Nixon to Trump, the 'War on Drugs' continues, but who is really the victim at the end of it all? |

You can keep an eye out for updates at

[UntoldEdu - YouTube](#) | [Untold History - Website](#)

Developing Critical Thinking Through Questions

Social studies classrooms are a great place for students to develop historical thinking and civics skills. These skills include **critical thinking** and **enquiry**. When developing key historical and civic skills with students the first place to start is with the vocabulary that you'll use as a class to discuss the themes and issues that will arise from watching the videos in the collection Untold.

To get you started, here are the words we'd recommend you and your students intentionally use:

- Possibility
- Probably
- Perhaps
- Might
- Could
- Fairly
- Maybe
- Not sure
- I think...
- Sure
- Certain
- My hypothesis is...
- I'd like to know...

Next it's about posing questions for students to think critically about what is presented in the videos. We recommend you use questions like:

- What would it be like if...?
- What could happen if...?
- What other outcomes might have happened?
- What questions would you have asked?
- What was the point of...?
- What other perspective could there be?
- What assumptions are you making?
- How is this situation/story similar to...?
- Can you compare this story with...?
- Do you agree or disagree?
- What is your opinion?
- Is there another viewpoint?

Finally, sometimes controversial issues arise from such discussions. Whilst it might be uncomfortable, we don't recommend you shy away from having the discussion. We've got some resources that could help you here. We worked with iCivics to create the [iCivics Roadmap for Teaching Controversial Issues](#). You'll find all you need there to tackle those more challenging social studies conversations.