



• COMMON THREAD •

- ✓ Identify an especially meaningful theme or concept which stretches over many moons of American history.
- ✓ The finished product should consist of at least seven historical moments linked by your “common thread.”
- ✓ The genesis of your concept does not have to be day one; nor does your theme have to extend all the way to yesterday. The period of time should be lengthy enough, however, to include the required seven moments without having them all happening in the same decade! How about one moment per each of seven different periods identified by the College Board for APUSH?
- ✓ By the time this activity has been introduced, your instructor has probably mentioned a few possibilities for theme choices, such as “land,” “America’s geographical vastness,” and “sectionalism.” Past students have identified lovely options like “compromise,” “reform,” “abuse of power,” “societal migration,” and “minority rights.” For the latter, you could focus on one particular minority *group* (various issues through history) or one specific *issue* (various groups in history).
- ✓ For each of your seven historical episodes, include detailed description of the moment, circumstances of the episode, causes and effects, key people involved, and identification of chief elements which collectively encompass your common thread. An example or political cartoon would be the cherry on top!
- ✓ Arrange the historical moments chronologically. One episode per page.
- ✓ Identify chief source (e.g., Garraty, Brinkley, etc.) for each moment.
- ✓ Pay attention to accuracy, thoroughness, and presentation.
- ✓ Examples of gorgeous work may be available from your instructor.

The primary objective for this and all APUSH activities is to intensify a portion of your personal preparation for the National Exam!