

The Great Communicator Files: Challenger Speech Connections to California State Standards

The “Great Communicator Files” address both the secondary standards skills as well as standards-driven content.

Listed below are some relevant excerpts from the California Content Standards for history and social sciences.

GRADES SIX THROUGH EIGHT- HISTORICAL and SOCIAL SCIENCES ANALYSIS SKILLS

Research, Evidence, and Point of View

3. Students assess the credibility of primary and secondary sources and draw sound conclusion from them.

Historical Interpretation

2. Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long and short-term causal relations.

GRADE EIGHT- UNITED STATES HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY GROWTH and CONFLICT

8.4 Students analyze the aspirations and ideals of the people of the new nation.

2. Explain the policy significance of famous speeches (e.g., Washington’s Farewell Address, Jefferson’s 1801 Inaugural Address, John Q. Adams’s Fourth of July 1821 Address).

GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE: INTRODUCTION

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned.

Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View

3. Students construct and test hypothesis; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.

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Historical Interpretation

1. Students show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments.

GRADE TEN

World History, Culture, and Geography: The Modern World

Students in grade ten study major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the late eighteenth century through the present, including the cause and course of the two world wars. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to international relations. They extrapolate from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable, and are not practiced everywhere in the world. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students consider multiple accounts of events in order to understand international relations from a variety of perspectives.

10.9 Students analyze the international developments in the post-World War II world.

1. Compare the economic and military power shifts caused by the war, including the Yalta Pact, the development of nuclear weapons, Soviet control over Eastern European nations, and the economic recoveries of Germany and Japan.
2. Analyze the causes of the Cold War, with the free world on one side and Soviet client states on the other, including competition for influence in such places as Egypt, the Congo, Vietnam, and Chile.
3. Understand the importance of the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, which established the pattern for America's postwar policy of supplying economic and military aid to prevent the spread of Communism and the resulting economic and political competition in arenas such as Southeast Asia, Cuba, and Africa.
6. Analyze the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union, including the weakness of the command economy, burdens of military commitments, and growing resistance to Soviet rule by dissidents in satellite states and the non-Russian Soviet republics.

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10.10 Students analyze the integration of countries into the world economy and the information, technological, and communications revolutions (e.g., television, satellites, computers).

GRADE ELEVEN

United States History and Geography: Continuity and Change in the Twentieth Century

They learn that the United States has served as a model for other nations and that the rights and freedoms we enjoy are not accidents, but the results of a defined set of political principles that are not always basic to citizens of other countries. Students understand that our rights under the U.S. Constitution are a precious inheritance that depends on an educated citizenry for their preservation and protection.

11.8 Students analyze the economic boom and social transformation of post-World War II America.

5. Describe the increased powers of the presidency in response to the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War.
7. Describe the effects on society and the economy of technological developments since 1945, including the computer revolution, changes in communication, advances in medicine, and improvements in agricultural technology.

11.9 Students analyze U.S. foreign policy since World War II.

3. Trace the origins and geopolitical consequences (foreign and domestic) of the Cold War and containment policy...
4. Analyze the role of the Reagan administration and other factors in the victory of the West in the Cold War.

11.11 Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.

2. Discuss the significant domestic policy speeches of Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton...

GRADE TWELVE

12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.

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3. Discuss Article II of the Constitution as it relates to the executive branch, including eligibility for office and length of term, election to and removal from office, the oath of office, and the enumerated executive powers.

12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.

1. Discuss the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press.
2. Describe the roles of broadcast, print, and electronic media, including the Internet, as means of communication in American politics.
3. Explain how public officials use the media to communicate with the citizenry and to shape public opinion.

Principles of Economics

12.3 Students analyze the influence of the federal government on the American economy.

1. Understand how the role of government in a market economy often includes providing for national defense etc.