

**The Great Depression and the New Deal**  
Using letters from distressed farmers, reports of discrimination in the WPA, and contemporary newspaper accounts about conditions during the Depression, students undertake a creative writing project. A tape of one of Roosevelt's fireside chats invites discussion about the influence of voice and vocabulary on the message.

**World War II—The Home Front**  
Many citizens contributed to the war effort, and this unit's wide variety of documents assists students as they develop reports of life on the homefront. The documents include public-opinion surveys, letters about the status of women and African Americans, photographs from relocation camps, and tape recordings of government appeals to support the war effort.

**The United States at War: 1944**  
This unit reviews the U.S. government's role in military, diplomatic, scientific, and domestic events during 1944. Students trace the global scope of combat, discuss the ethical aspects of war, explore the contributions and treatment of ethnic groups, and examine the use of film propaganda and its effect on the public. Students are encouraged to create their own school or community archival collection of historical materials.

**Peace and Prosperity: 1953-1961**  
*Peace and Prosperity* presents foreign policy concepts that evolved during the Eisenhower administration: the domino theory, containment, peaceful coexistence, and the space race. Students analyze the cultural and historical significance of photographs and interpret sound recordings, including an early interview with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a newscast of an atomic bomb test, an excerpt from the McCarthy hearings, and the kitchen debate between Nixon and Khrushchev. The unit also compares U.S. policy in Korea and Vietnam.

