

Freedom Classroom

Freedom Classroom A Historic Experience

Based on recommendations from teachers, community service, classroom grades, and results in an essay competition, a limited number of North American Religious Liberty Association (NARLA) West scholarships (6 at \$1,000 & 6 at \$500) will be awarded to students in Pacific Union academies to support participation in the first annual "Freedom Classroom" held in Washington D.C.

Freedom Classroom objectives will immerse students in the rich history and society's freedom of conscience convictions that shaped the issues and causes behind the events. Conscientious convictions regarding the first amendment, state vs. federal rights, pluralism, Dominionism and human rights covered by the U. S. Constitution will be addressed as the central issues of freedom in our nation then and now.

Through classroom instruction, visits to and discussions at historic sites with historical specialists and engagement with Government representatives, students will relive history and increase their appreciation and understanding of freedom of conscience and freedom of religion.



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FACT SHEET FOR EDUCATORS

WHAT IS FREEDOM CLASSROOM?

The 2011/2012 Freedom Classroom is an educational pilot program sponsored by the Religious Liberty and Educational Departments of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Freedom Classroom is being jointly developed by the La Sierra University School of Business, educators, and NARLA West leaders. The purpose is to introduce students to basic and intermediate concepts and principles of Freedom of conscience and freedom of religion to enable students to approach contemporary issues from a Christian freedom of conscience perspective.

Freedom Classroom is available to United States Government, United States History academy students in the Pacific Union Conference where the academy chooses to participate in the Freedom Classroom educational program objectives by aligning freedom of conscience and religion lesson plans with the Pacific Union's Social Study Guidelines and competitive essay questions. NARLA West will offer scholarships for award winning essays to attend the Freedom Classroom in Washington D. C. Additionally, La Sierra University and other participating institutions will offer \$500+ college scholarships for award winning Freedom of Conscience essays. See the websites below marked with an (*) for more information.

DOES IT FIT WITH MY CLASS LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The foundational topics selected for the academy classroom and the week-long Freedom Classroom experience in our nation's capitol support core guidelines for the Pacific Union Conference social studies and religion classes from a freedom of conscience perspective.

WHAT TOPICS ARE COVERED IN FREEDOM CLASSROOM?

Freedom Classroom is rooted in the topic of freedom of conscience, the freedom of individuals to hold thoughts and beliefs independent of the coercion of others. This ideal exists at the very foundation of our nation. Current events related to the first amendment, state vs. federal rights highlight the importance of this ideal, making them useful classroom topics that engage students with the relevance of freedom of conscience rights.

HOW CAN I INTEGRATE THIS INTO MY OWN CLASS?

For sample lesson plans, additional resources and access to the Freedom Classroom NARLA West and/or SIFE university scholarship application, essay guidelines, essay questions, etc visit our new Freedom Classroom blogsite at freedomclassroom.wordpress.com to supplement what is being taught under the Social Studies Guidelines 9-12 for the Pacific Union.

To learn more about Freedom Classroom and how you can utilize this valuable learning opportunity to engage your students, please contact us.

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