



What So Proudly We Hail **Frequently Asked Questions**

What is What So Proudly We Hail?

[What So Proudly We Hail](#) is a literary-based e-curriculum resource for civic education created by distinguished teacher-scholars Amy and Leon Kass. The curriculum is based on the Kasses' critically acclaimed anthology of the same name, and uses great American stories, speeches, and songs to enhance civics instruction in the classroom.

Who are Amy and Leon Kass?

[Amy A. Kass](#) is a Senior Lecturer Emerita in the humanities at the University of Chicago and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. [Leon R. Kass](#) is an author, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, and a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Together with Diana Schaub (professor of political science at Loyola University Maryland), the Kasses edited the *What So Proudly We Hail* anthology, which was the precursor to the e-curriculum of the same name.

What are the benefits of a “literary-based” curriculum?

Strong literacy skills drive academic achievement. A landmark study published by ACT in 2006, *Reading Between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals about College Readiness in Reading*, found that the clearest differentiator between students who are college ready and students who are not is the ability to comprehend complex texts.

The literary-based format of the *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum is ideal for teaching students to read, comprehend, and analyze challenging texts. Through model conversations, text-based discussion and writing prompts, and in-depth study guides, *What So Proudly We Hail* promotes the development of important academic skills – active learning, critical thinking, text-based discussion, and close reading – that are essential for success in all disciplines.

How were the readings for the What So Proudly We Hail curriculum selected?

The *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum draws from a wealth of readings by America's finest writers, statesmen, and civic leaders, each giving voice to important experiences and values that define the American character. The readings showcased in the *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum impose no particular moral, political, or religious teaching. Nor are they derived from a prescribed canon. The enduring works featured in the *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum have been selected because they invite thoughtful, active reading; they inspire different ways of thinking about our common American experience; and they speak to the heart and the mind about meaningful ways to build and foster civic literacy and national identity.

What age group does the What So Proudly We Hail e-curriculum target?

The robust *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum is well suited for middle- and high school-level programs at charter schools, private academies, and home school programs. In addition, the curriculum is an ideal resource for middle and high school social studies and language arts teachers charged with implementing the new Common Core State Standards.

How does What So Proudly We Hail aid in the implementation of Common Core State Standards?

The goal of the [Common Core State Standards](#) (CCSS) is to ensure that students in K-12 are equipped and well prepared for the rigors of college and career. In particular, the standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects aim to optimize literacy skills by engaging students in close, attentive reading of complex texts and by promoting text-based reasoning and thinking.

The *What So Proudly We Hail* curriculum features a carefully selected collection of American stories, speeches, and songs that meet the level of complexity, quality, and breadth of text that the CCSS requires. Because CCSS calls for rigorous analysis of both literary and informational texts, *What So Proudly We Hail* includes content-rich nonfiction that touches not only on language arts, but also on content areas, including social studies and civics. By integrating literacy skills in content areas, *What So Proudly We Hail* produces stronger readers who possess a greater understanding of content knowledge.

How much does the What So Proudly We Hail e-curriculum cost?

All of the *What So Proudly We Hail* e-curriculum – companion discussion guides, lesson plans, video seminars, and supporting materials – are available to teachers free of charge.

How can teachers access What So Proudly We Hail materials for the classroom?

A teacher-friendly resource, the entire *What So Proudly We Hail* e-curriculum can be downloaded easily from www.whatsoproudlywehail.org.

Literary-based curricula made simple. History lessons made memorable.

www.whatsoproudlywehail.org