Civic Agency Project\(^1\) —due Friday, May 13

“A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful.”
— Federal Judge Charles W. Pickering

This course is intended to encourage you to do more than learn about American history. Our goal all along has been to remind you that history is absolutely essential to a “healthy democracy” and a “decent society.” Knowing your history is something you can do to make democracy work.

Follow these seven steps:

1. **Watch Patriocracy.** At the start of the semester, we asked you to watch the film *Patriocracy*. Watch [these six clips](#) as a reminder of the message. Watch Clip 6 more than once. 😊

2. **Storify it.** You will be using Storify to tell your story of civic agency in American history. Go to [https://storify.com/](https://storify.com/) and register. It’s free. Watch [this introductory video](#), then log in and test it out. Take a look at posted stories to get an idea of what they are and how it works. *You do NOT have to be a tech whiz to use this platform.*

3. **Choose Your Story Topic.** Choose a contemporary topic that represents a challenge to democracy by serving to divide or polarize the nation. Your topic can be political, economic, social, or cultural in nature.

4. **Outline Your Story.** Relying on your knowledge of U.S. History, think about how your chosen topic has evolved over the course of American history. Write down a simple outline (bullet points) that you’d like to include in the final project. *You must get your topic and draft outline approved by your Friday instructor no later than Friday, April 29 (two weeks prior to the project due date).*

5. **Tell Your Story.** Use Storify to collect evidence on the internet about your topic. As you bring the various social media links into your story, you are required to add your own voice and historical examples and evidence to the mix. You must insert comments about the sources and why they matter. At a minimum, you are required to include fifteen (15) different annotated links or “chapters.”

6. **Share Your story.** When you’re satisfied with the final product (and even then, you are always able to continue to edit), you will “publish” your Storify story, in order to share your story of civic agency with the class. You will then be able to post your story to our shared Facebook page, which has been created for this very project.

7. **Practice Civic Agency.** *People make choices. Choices make history.*

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\(^1\)“Civic Agency involves the capacities of citizens to work collaboratively across differences like partisan ideology, faith traditions, income, geography and ethnicity to address common challenges, solve problems, and create common ground.”