



Fears of a Setting Sun
Dennis C. Rasmussen



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January 13th, 2022, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Central Standard Time

Introduction, Prologue and
George Washington

Introduction: The Why?

Our why is to enrich our content knowledge over the founding era and to enhance our instruction through the sharing of implementable learning strategies and lesson plans.

Additional objectives:

Participants will understand and discuss the complex and sometimes contradictory thoughts held by the Founders of the United States.

Participants will be given the opportunity to connect with other teachers with the shared goals of wanting to learn and improve their craft, which is vital to keeping people in the field.

Schedule of Events: January 13th, 2022 **The Zoom Mainroom will open at 6:55 pm CST** (The Zoom Link will be sent out on Tuesday, January 12th)

7:00-7:10: Welcome and a brief introduction by Nathan McAlister Humanities Program manager KSDE

7:10-7:20: Setting the Stage-Matt Christensen BVSWHS/Nate McAlister. Using the C3 Framework of Inquiry in the Book Study and What the Prologue Tells Us.

- Kansas ELA Standards:
<https://community.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=g4s0HZxjYF4%3d&tabid=5559&mid=13575>
- Kansas HGSS Standards:
<https://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4TJXZgA yals%3d&tabid=472&portalid=0&mid=4744>

Compelling Question: Why this title?

7:20-8:00: George Washington, Chapter 1. Blanche Wulfekoetter Jefferson West HS.

Context of the Chapter:

From fighting in the French and Indian War, through leading the Revolutionary Army, presiding over the Constitutional Convention, to being elected

(unanimously) as the United States first President, George Washington seems to be the personification of the principles and virtues that created the foundation of the United States.

Compelling Question:

Is there an American identity?

Breakout (supporting) Questions:

Does Washington's desire for leadership based on "reason impartiality together" (p. 19) overcome partisanship? Why or why not?

How does Washington's hope for leadership based on "disinterested virtue" (p. 18), and for the "public to follow his own even-handed and open-minded example" (pg. 19), lead to Rasmussen's thesis of disillusionment as witnessed in Washington's letters?

Content-specific Resources:

[George Washington letter to Martha Washington June 18, 1775](#)

[General George Washington Resigning His Commission | AOC](#)

[Washington's Eulogy by Henry "Light-horse Harry" Lee](#)

[KWL chart pdf - Read Write Think](#)

[1776 - Dispatch from General Washington - YouTube](#)

[Newsela organization/analysis tools](#)

Activity:

[Write your own eulogy to shape your future - extension/SEL lesson plan](#)

Compelling Questions for January 20th Chapter 2 and 3 Washington

Washington shares his disdain for political parties emphasizing "that in popular governments this spirit 'is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.'" (p. 47) To what extent do you agree with this statement?

What connections do you find between Washington's thoughts and the current political environment in the United States?