



EDUCATORS' QUOTES ABOUT THE PROGRAM

“The students and teachers at my school are so excited about the Picturing America materials. We displayed the images by theme around the school, allowing students to see these great works of art right next to their very own artwork. Our upper school American history teacher has used a few of the images in class and one of our English teachers will be using the artwork for an American literature segment.”

-- **Leslie Beatty, Middle School Librarian, Episcopal School of Dallas, Dallas, TX**

“The Picturing America posters are beautiful; way beyond my expectations. Everyone here is making a concerted effort to incorporate them into their curriculum—it’s amazing how many variables we’ve already been able to come up with.”

-- **Corliss Block, Art Teacher, Cahill Elementary, Saugerties, NY**

“Historically, aesthetically, and emotionally each of these pictures touches us in a special way. The impact that these pictures has had and will continue to have in our school community is far greater than I could have imagined.”

-- **Janet Brown, Curriculum Coordinator, Christ the King School, Atlanta, GA**

“Our students are overwhelmed by the beauty and quality of the posters. I can see them connecting to not only the artwork, but also the history they represent in a new, dynamic way.”

--**Anne Buehl, Library Media Director, Parkview Jr. Sr. High School, Orfordville, WI**

“Our Picturing America materials are amazing. We are overwhelmed with how the size of the pictures conveys so much more information than one can get from a reproduction in a book.”

-- **Rose Cory, Librarian, Jane Addams Jr. High, Schaumburg, IL**

“Roughly 80% of my students speak another language in their homes and the same numbers come from immigrant families. The Picturing America pictures are helping them learn about our culture and history. Considering that most of what they see about our culture is sports, videos, or movie stars as shining examples, these pictures are a blessing. This is one of the best things that the Federal Government has ever done.”

-- **Denise DeVone, Art & Music Teacher, Holy Cross Elementary School, Harrison, NJ**

“Since I received the Picturing America grant, I have used the materials in most every lesson. Whether or not my subject is directly related to a specific incident in American history, I always find a way to incorporate our school’s new Picturing America posters. I appreciate the opportunity to apply for the grant and encourage other schools to apply as well.”

-- **Sherry Darnall, Art Teacher, Cuba Elementary School, Mayfield, KY**





QUOTES CONTINUED...

“We were studying the skill of *repose* in art class and were examining the image of the silver tea pot made by Paul Revere. This led us to examine Grant Wood’s *Midnight Ride of Paul Revere* and to a discussion about the Boston Tea Party. Some of the students didn’t know what the Boston Tea Party was before that lesson.”

-- **Marie Ebert, Art Teacher, Eighteenth Avenue School, Newark, NJ**

“The detail on the prints is really amazing. All of our students have special needs and really struggle with reading. It absolutely helps them to have clear images they can view up close. We've been able to use the prints to spark some fun and interesting lessons!”

-- **Patti Foerster, Librarian, Vaughn Occupational High School, Chicago, IL**

“To have pictures and a teaching guide for free is a huge opportunity for our school. We use the images as a diving board for our artistic explorations. The teaching guide has been extremely helpful in leading my classes to really look at the art and enter into discussions about the time and place of the images.”

-- **Kimberly Gavin, Art Teacher, Holy Innocents Area Catholic Elementary School, Philadelphia, PA**

“Picturing America offers students the opportunity to study our nation’s history through the visual arts. Contemplating the impact of historical people and events in this student-friendly manner leads to appreciation and pride in our nation and the struggles and triumphs of those who came before us.”

-- **Elaine Heyden, Librarian, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School, Newark, DE**

“I’m thrilled at the quality! These images are so much better than old images we were using. I plan to use these regularly in the classroom to try to help the students gain more knowledge about social studies and American history.”

-- **Martha Kempe, Art Teacher, Mather School, Dorchester, MA**

“The Picturing America prints have given my art students access to the paintings of our fine American artists in amazing clarity and color. The generous size of the prints allows the entire class to see the fine details of each work. We are grateful for the opportunity to incorporate these prints in our curriculum in the art department, the library, and the history department. We plan to find numerous uses for them in the years ahead.”

-- **Ethel Kocinski, Art Teacher, Pope John Paul II School, Philadelphia, PA**





QUOTES CONTINUED...

“This month my art classes are using the portraits from the collection – such as *George Washington* by Stuart and *Paul Revere* by Copley – in a unit about drawing portraits. The fifth grade students study early American history, so the students react to the posters with awe and many questions. That box of posters is such a treasure trove! I have so many ideas, and the companion book with lesson suggestions has been a valuable asset.”

-- **Jan Kolesar, Art Teacher, Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, Brookline, NH**

“Picturing America is fabulous! I love the idea of having students learn through comparing the images. We have the images displayed in the hallways of our school. It is a wonderfully satisfying experience as a teacher to watch children engaged in viewing, experiencing, and conversing about art.”

-- **Mona Kolsky, American History Teacher, Shawmont School, Philadelphia, PA**

“My school in Brooklyn, NY has a very large immigrant population so I use art to show students more about American history, clothing styles, places and events. The Picturing America materials from the NEH will be a terrific addition to my curriculum. If only every teacher could reap the benefits of this program.”

-- **Pearl Lau, Art Educator, PS 230, Brooklyn, NY**

“They’re great! We’ve used the materials a lot lately to teach social studies during Presidents’ Day and Black History Month and are tying them to current events like the primary elections. *The County Election* painting by George Caleb Bingham is fabulous! We used it to help our students learn about the election process.”

-- **Deborah Lipnick, Librarian, Stephen C. Foster Elementary School, Dallas, TX**

“Picturing America is a great way to spark a dialogue with the students about art and the stories behind the art. For teachers who may not have an incredible working knowledge of art, this is a fabulous and easy way for them to teach. And it facilitates teaching across disciplines with depth and quality.”

-- **Ruth Meissen, 2008 Illinois Teacher of the Year, Art Teacher, Harlem Middle School, Loves Park, IL**

“The quality of the materials is superb. I’m so pleased. My freshman students are using the materials to help guide their art discussions. I leave out the resource book for reference and some of the kids have spontaneously picked up the book and started digging in.”

-- **Christine Miller, Fine Arts Specialist, School for the Talented and Gifted Magnet, Dallas, TX**





QUOTES CONTINUED...

“Writing the spring concert is always a challenge. This year we are focusing it around the Picturing America program with commentary about several of the works of art and music or poetry to correspond with them. Thank you for offering this program to even small schools such as ours.”

-- **Maretta Nearing, Art & Music Instructor, St. Mary School, Aberdeen, WA**

“I can only rave about the quality of the materials and the opportunity to teach American values through American art.”

-- **Darlene Ogelsby, Teacher, St. Mary Magdalene School, Apex, NC**

“Through Picturing America, my students are forging a relationship with the history of United States, and are engaged in deep, creative thinking about the identity of our country. Children, many of whom are not even American citizens, are connecting to some of the landmark events of American history through these images in our school.”

-- **Sara Paulson, Library Media Specialist, PS347, The American Sign Language & English, Lower School, New York, NY**

“Because we are not located near a large city with ready access to museums, our students don’t often have the opportunity to view such high quality art up close. The Picturing America posters are so high quality, it was like having a museum in the library. This program really helps create balance in education and brings the same level of resources to schools everywhere.”

-- **Jim Polka, Librarian, Douglas High School, Minden, NV**

“I was so excited about the prints. They are stunning. Foreign language is having our students write descriptive words in French and Spanish so they can talk about the art in those languages. The English department is having the students write descriptive paragraphs about certain prints.”

-- **Andie Quinn, Art Instructor, Kenston High School, Chagrin Falls, OH**

“When I start to pull out all of the different images from the big Picturing America packet, the students get quiet and perk up with excitement. The book coincides with each picture, so every picture has a lesson that can be thoroughly discussed.”

-- **Andy Schaefer, Art Teacher, Central Dauphin East Senior High, Harrisburg, PA**

“The AP American History exam has art on it, so I’ve been using some of the Picturing America images to prepare our students for it. I have slides of some of these pictures, but you really can’t get a feel for the images from them. It’s great to have the art right at our fingertips. The resource book is also a great supplement. The information in it brings the events to life for my students.”

-- **Sandy Sipes, AP US History Teacher, Trinity High School, Euliss, TX**





QUOTES CONTINUED...

“The Picturing America materials will be great resources over the next years for all our students from the Special Ed. classes to those who are accelerated. The collection ties in perfectly with social studies DBQ-type questions which are a major component of the state assessment, and also will enrich English and art curricula.”

-- **Sandy Stone, Teacher-Librarian, Orchard Park Middle School, Orchard Park, NY**

“The Picturing America program has been a terrific asset to our school so far. We’ve been able to incorporate several images into units on the American Revolution and the Civil War, and even used one print as an inspirational piece for National Poetry Month. Both the eighth grade teacher and I have been working to start a school-wide collection of prints and media resources for teachers to use to support their units.”

-- **Annemarie Strom, Librarian, Ellen Mitchell School, Chicago, IL**

“The Picturing America grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has truly enriched our lives. The posters dovetail perfectly with the scope and sequence of our district’s social studies curriculum. Valuable as the Picturing America posters are to teaching our curriculum, however, perhaps their greatest worth is their limitless potential to teach us all—students, staff and parents—about ourselves.”

-- **Katrine Watkins, Librarian, Shaler Area Intermediate School, Glenshaw, PA**

“The Picturing America collection exceeds my expectations. We have long needed the art of America to help tell the story. Quite honestly, (my school) never could have afforded such a collection. All of the teachers at my school are just awestruck. We’ve really needed something that brings together art and the study of history.”

-- **Mary Watkins, Librarian, Yorktown Middle School, Yorktown, IN**

“I introduced Bearden’s *The Dove* to students close to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Kids from second to fifth grade have used this poster as a springboard for all kinds of discussion on such topics as neighborhoods, race relations, politics, symbolism, collage, heroism, and progress. The posters and accompanying book are great!”

-- **Marcy Werner, Art Teacher, Jack D. Gordon Elementary School, Miami, FL**

“I love the images and the guide is so easy to use. I used the Picturing America images in a lesson with fifth graders, where we looked at Bingham’s *The County Election* and the Selma-to-Montgomery March for Voting Rights in 1965, which are especially relevant today in relation to the election. Some students, who don’t ordinarily participate, were clearly drawn into the discussion by the visual element.”

-- **Cheryl Wolf, Librarian, PS 63 William McKinley School, New York, NY**

