

The More Things Change...

Protocol for Sharing Between Groups

Note: If there are multiple groups for each set of documents—e.g. 1A/1B/1C—then those groups should convene to discuss their documents and reach some consensus before sharing with the groups for the other set of documents. This would increase the amount of time required to complete the assignment.

Step 1

Group 1 will begin by sharing the general context of their documents. What is the time period? What do Jefferson's general concerns seem to be? From there, Group 1 will introduce each of the documents briefly and summarize the specific context of the source and the author's purpose in writing it. (If you use a source analysis protocol—e.g., SOAPS—this would be an opportunity to use that.) After summarizing each source in the group, Group 1 should end by making one simple statement explaining Jefferson's vision for education as it relates to that set of documents. (10-15 mins)

Step 2

At this point, Group 2 may ask any clarifying questions of Group 1. These questions cannot challenge the interpretations of Group 1 or reference Group 2's sources. At this point, the only questions that can be asked are for information gathering purposes. The teacher may need to regulate this conversation to prevent it from moving too quickly or too far afield. (2-3 minutes)

Step 3

After the questions have been answered, Group 2 will present their sources in the same fashion, beginning with a description of the general context and then moving into an introduction/summary of each source. (10-15 minutes)

Step 4

Group 2 may ask clarifying questions. (2-3 minutes)

Step 5

After both groups have shared their sources and had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, students will work together to complete the graphic organizer regarding similarities and differences between Jefferson's earlier and later visions for education in Virginia. Depending on student needs and/or teacher preference, this may take different forms: a whole-class collaboration, or smaller mixed groups. (10-15 mins)

After completing this protocol, students should be fairly well prepared for a whole-class discussion of the changes in Jefferson's educational vision.