

2.3 Debating the World History Standards

Instructions: You have been appointed to be the student representative on a committee rewriting your state's global history standards. In preparation for the committee's next meeting you have been asked to prepare a 250-word statement on one of the following issues that will be discussed.

1. Should the Roman Republic and Empire receive special attention as a breeding ground of Western Civilization and be covered in a separate two week unit or should it be treated the same way as other ancient societies?
2. While Egypt is physically located on the continent of Africa, should the ancient kingdom of the Pharaohs be considered an African, a Middle Eastern, or a Mediterranean civilization, or something else?
3. Should Islamic societies in the Middle Ages (roughly 600 AD – 1200 AD) receive as much attention in the curriculum as Christian societies in Europe?
4. European imperialism brought capitalism, industrial development, Christianity, modern medicine, and democratic institutions to colonized countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Should it be portrayed as exploitative or beneficial?
5. Chinese civilization, while initially more advanced than civilization in Europe, remained relatively stagnant for a thousand of years. How much attention does China before the modern era merit in the global history curriculum?