



## SYLLABUS

# TEACHING HARD HISTORY

## Professional Learning Cohorts

**Overview statement:** As participants in a professional learning cohort, educators will learn about the Learning for Justice (LFJ) framework on Teaching Hard History: American Slavery (THH) and how to use it to enrich their lessons on American enslavement, build students' civic engagement, critical thinking skills and deepen their mindsets around inclusion and empathy.. THH Cohorts will provide educators, free of charge, the chance to deeply engage with THH, work in collaboration with 20 educators across the country and provide insights and feedback on implementation. There will be two cohorts: an elementary (K-5) cohort and a secondary (6-12) cohort. After participating in the cohort, educators will have an opportunity to showcase their learnings to a national audience.

### Overarching objectives

- Educators will practice strategies to prepare their students to participate in challenging conversations.
- Educators will gain the skills to analyze resources and practices in order to prepare their students to engage critically with narratives surrounding the history of American slavery.
- Educators will learn to navigate and implement THH and other resources available through the Learning for Justice website.
- Educators will advocate for teaching honest histories by creating a project showcasing their learnings from the THH cohorts.

### Eligibility Requirements

In order to be considered for a THH cohort, applicants must be an educator that will use the THH frameworks for either K-5 or 6-12 students (for example, through a classroom, non-profit or museum setting, etc.).

Educators across the nation are encouraged to apply, but there will be preference given to those teaching in Southern Poverty Law Center states: Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi or Louisiana.

### Requirements

**Synchronous sessions:** Educators must commit to participating in 6 synchronous cohort sessions via Zoom from January-March. All sessions will be held from 5:00 - 6:30 pm Central / 6:00 - 7:30 pm Eastern.

**Showcase:** Educators will showcase their learnings on May 4 via Zoom to a national audience.

**Asynchronous Work:** Educators must be willing to dedicate time outside of synchronous sessions to exploring and implementing THH resources and working on their showcase project (expect about 1.5-2 hours a week).

**Post cohort:** Educators will use what they learned during the THH cohort with their students, including documenting student reflections/learnings within a calendar year, to be shared with Learning for Justice staff.

### **Showcase Information**

Prior to the showcase, educators will have an opportunity to collaborate with Learning for Justice staff and other cohort members to help craft their projects.

The showcase will be held on Wednesday, May 4th from 6-7:30 pm ET on Zoom.

This showcase will present educators with a unique opportunity to apply what they learned, such as designing a community project, a learning plan or professional development for other teachers, that highlights participants' contributions to the field of teaching honest history about American enslavement.

Cohort participants will have the opportunity to present and display their work for a national audience, consisting of family and community members, educators, school leaders, Learning for Justice and Southern Poverty Law Center staff and scholars in the field of social justice education.

### **Certificate of Completion**

Participants will receive a signed certificate of completion that shows their hours of engagement upon completion and presentation of their showcase project.

### **Google Classroom**

Each cohort (elementary, secondary) will be able to access their cohort's Google Classroom to communicate and collaborate with one another and Learning for Justice staff.

Each Google Classroom functions as the centralized location for all logistical and programmatic information, including calendar of cohort times and office hours, slides and resources from previous sessions, showcase artifacts, upcoming professional development opportunities and more.

### **Office Hours (Optional)**

Learning for Justice staff will host office hours every other week on alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 pm ET on Zoom from the first cohort meeting through the showcase.

During office hours, Learning for Justice staff will be there to help with processing, implementation, troubleshooting, creation of project artifacts or resources and answer any questions from cohort participants in a one-on-one setting.

### Synchronous Session Overview

All sessions are 6:00 - 7:30 pm Eastern Time via Zoom.

TITLE	OBJECTIVES/FOCUS AREAS	K-5 COHORT (TUESDAYS)	6-12 COHORT (THURSDAYS)
<b>“Let’s Talk!” about Racism and Enslavement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will self-assess their comfortability discussing race and racism with their students.</li> <li>☞ Educators will explain how racism and capitalism (greed) are the foundation of the institution of slavery.</li> <li>☞ Educators will practice strategies to prepare their students to participate in challenging conversations.</li> </ul>	1/11/22	1/13/22
<b>Teaching Hard History 101</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will reflect on language choices that make up THH’s framework and resources.</li> <li>☞ Educators will gain the skills to critically analyze resources and practices they use in their classrooms.</li> <li>☞ Educators will learn to navigate the resources available through the Learning for Justice website.</li> </ul>	1/25/22	1/27/22
<b><i>The Forgotten Slavery of Our Ancestors: Illuminating Native History</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will reflect on how their curriculum can contribute to the humanity of enslaved peoples.</li> <li>☞ Educators will plan for conversations around the histories of Indigenous peoples with their students.</li> </ul>	2/8/22	2/10/22
<b>The Cultural Legacies of Enslaved and Free People of African Descent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will describe the ways in which enslaved people resisted enslavement.</li> <li>☞ Educators will understand the cultural legacies created by African Americans as a foundation of American culture.</li> <li>☞ Educators will be prepared to help students connect American culture today with the contributions of enslaved and free people of African descent.</li> </ul>	2/22/22	2/24/22
<b>Using the Inquiry Design Model to Teach Hard History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will reflect on the experience of participating in a THH Inquiry Design Model lesson.</li> <li>☞ Educators will begin to plan their own Inquiry Design Model using the THH framework.</li> </ul>	3/8/22	3/10/22
<b>Giving Light: Disrupting the Continuum of Hard History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Educators will make connections between the legacy of enslavement and current events and climate.</li> <li>☞ Educators will reflect on and celebrate their overall experience as a part of the THH cohort.</li> <li>☞ Educators will prepare for their showcase project.</li> </ul>	3/22/22	3/24/22
<b>SHOWCASE</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY, 5/4/22 FROM 6-7:30 PM EDT</b>	