



Questions for Classroom Discussion

“Something Worth Celebrating”

- **Why do we have different holidays and observances in our country, and why are they important?**

- ⇒ Consider the religious holidays and traditions (such as Christmas, Easter, Hanukah, etc.) that have existed for hundreds—or thousands—of years, and are often observed around the world
- ⇒ Consider how holidays often revolve around an idea (such as Memorial Day), or an event (such as July 4th), or a person or group (such as President’s Day), or a theme (such as Halloween)
- ⇒ Consider the need for people to find reasons to celebrate, if for nothing else than to take a day off of work or school, get together with friends and family, and enjoy life a little more

- **What is a holiday or celebration that does not exist (or is not recognized on a large scale), but perhaps should be observed? How should it be celebrated?**

- ⇒ Consider important historical events or people/groups that do not have a holiday... for example, the end of the Civil War, or the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, or perhaps “Native American Day”
- ⇒ Consider ideas and causes that might be worth recognizing with a special day, such as “American Ingenuity”, or “Freedom of Speech”, or “Pay It Forward” (meaning to do something good for someone else when something good was done for you)
- ⇒ Consider a fun theme that might be worthy of a holiday, such as “Music Day”, or “Fashion Day”, or “Old West Day”
- ⇒ Consider different ways to observe and celebrate a holiday — parades/festivals, food, traditions, gift-giving, special clothing, and so on

- **What is the best way to “spread the word” and garner national support for a new holiday or celebration?**

- ⇒ Consider that before “spreading the word” about a new holiday, it is important to understand the central message of the holiday, and how you want others to celebrate or what action you want them to take... What part of the message will help garner the most support?
- ⇒ Consider different forms of media — internet, texting, television, radio, print (newspapers/ magazines) — and how each can reach different audiences in different amounts of time
- ⇒ Consider limitations that will help you decide on the best method to spread the word about the new holiday — cost, time, intended audience, complexity of the central message, etc.