



Here's an excerpt from: "Step Away from the Textbook!"

You can teach your students all they need to know about modern U.S. History in 5 minutes. These quick poems ought to do the trick:

Politics

A federal constitutional republic we have
With a two-party partisan system
The republicans and democrats, they argue and bicker
In a never-ending battle of wisdom
Yet despite all this controversy and difference of values
Within our nation's interior
On the outside our country is a model of democracy
In fact, we're a world-leading superior!

Economics

The United States is a wealthy place
By far the largest economy around
With services and goods that fill a flourishing market
And where for most citizens, jobs can be found
Yet this status does not make the U.S. immune
To inevitable downward turns
Recessions occur that slow everything down
And create for us countless concerns

Technology

Since the days of its birth, the U.S. has encouraged
Questioning, creating, and inventing
NASA paves the way for discovery in space
New science they're always presenting
Computers have constant new updates for you to try
They're staples of our day-to-day lives
Both Apple and Microsoft are American designs
Because here is where technology thrives

Pop Culture

The American culture is both original and adapted
From a melting pot of blended ideals
Our fashion has begun global fads such as blue jeans
And magazines often change what appeals
The films of Hollywood are the most successful in the world
Like *Star Wars*, *Avatar*, and *Titanic*
Our music scene sets the tone for what's "in" and what's "out"
Without our pop culture, we'd panic!

Excerpt from:

Bache, Ben. *Step Away from the Textbook!* Greenville, SC: Homecourt Publishers, 2008.