

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Periodization... *Post World War II America*

## Historical Thinking Skill 3: Periodization

Historical thinking involves the ability to describe, analyze, evaluate, and construct models that historians use to organize history into discrete periods. To accomplish this periodization of history, historians identify turning points and recognize that the choice of specific dates gives a higher value to one narrative, region, or group than to other narratives, regions, or groups. How a historian defines historical periods depends on what the historian considers most significant — political, economic, social, cultural, or environmental factors. Changing periodization can change a historical narrative. Moreover, historical thinking involves being aware of how the circumstances and contexts of a historian’s work might shape his or her choices about periodization.

### **Proficient students should be able to ...**

- Explain ways that historical events and processes can be organized within blocks of time.
- Analyze and evaluate competing models of periodization of United States history.

## Main Idea for Period 8 (from Content Outline)

**After World War II, the United States grappled with prosperity and unfamiliar international responsibilities, while struggling to live up to its ideals.**

What does it mean to “grapple with prosperity?”

What were the “unfamiliar international responsibilities?”

What are the essential American “ideals?” Which ones were still “struggles?”



# Six Degrees of Separation

Choose 6 people from the list below, and place them in chronological order. Then *explain* how each one connects to another in complete sentences.

Harry Truman	Dwight Eisenhower	John F. Kennedy	Lyndon B. Johnson	Richard Nixon	Gerald Ford	Jimmy Carter
Henry Kissinger	Joseph McCarthy	Phyllis Schlafly	Gloria Steinem	Betty Friedan	Cesar Chavez	Martin Luther King, Jr.
Malcolm X	Bobby Seale	Ethel and Julius Rosenberg	Thurgood Marshall	Rosa Parks	Dolores Huerta	Earl Warren
Warren Burger	James Meredith	Barry Goldwater	George Wallace	Dennis Banks	Richard Aoki	Tom Hayden

1. _____	↑ ↓	_____
2. _____		_____
3. _____		_____
4. _____		_____
5. _____		_____
6. _____		_____

Extension:  
Create two more chronological lists using all the terms listed. For one, organize items under the theme “Politics and Power,” and for the other organize terms under the theme “American Identity.” Some items will fit in both themes. Explain how each connects to the next, and then summarize the overall historical significance of each list.