# 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?"

# **Defining the Period, 1945-1980**

| The previous era was: |                                |                | The era was ushered in with:                                    |           |                         |   |                   |  |  |  |                  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|-----------|-------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|--|------------------|
| <b>4</b>              | 1950 1953                      | 1957           | 1960  | 1963      | 1964                    | 1968  | 1972              | . 1973                                 | 1975                                       | 1976   | <b>)</b><br>1980 |
| An importa            | nt turning point within thi    | is period was: |   |           |                         |   |                   |  |  |  |                  |
| The era was           | s ushered out by:              |                |   |           | The                     | e next era is:                                      |                   |  |  |  |                  |
| What are<br>1.<br>2.  | the defining characteristics o | of this era?   | <i>Explain why</i> the the College Boar turning points in 1945: | d Content | <b>Outline. Include</b> | used to define this e<br>e how they were sign<br>n. | ra in<br>nificant | List and ex<br>the timelin<br>1.<br>2. |  | portant turning points                       | referenced on    |
| 3.                    |                                |                | 1980:   |           |                         |   |                   |  |  |  |                  |
| 4.                    |                                |                |   |           |                         |   |                   | 3.                                     |  |  |                  |
| 5.                    |                                |                |   |           |                         |   |                   | included on                            | the timeline & explain the overall era and | t of paper, list the other s<br>ain how each | ignificant dates |

# 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<br>Henry Kissinger<br>Malcolm X<br>Warren Burger | Dwight Eisenhower<br>Joseph McCarthy<br>Bobby Seale<br>James Meredith |              | John F. Kennedy<br>Phyllis Schlafly<br>Ethel and Julius Rosenberg<br>Barry Goldwater | Lyndon B. Johnson<br>Gloria Steinem<br>Thurgood Marshall<br>George Wallace | Richard Nixon<br>Betty Friedan<br>Rosa Parks<br>Dennis Banks | Gerald Ford<br>Cesar Chavez<br>Dolores Huerta<br>Richard Aoki | Jimmy Carter<br>Martin Luther King, Jr.<br>Earl Warren<br>Tom Hayden |
|---|---|--------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1   |   | $\uparrow$   |  |  |  |   |  |
| 2   |   |              |  |  |  |   |  |
| 3   |   |              |  |  |  |   |  |
| 4   |   |              |  |  |  |   |  |
| 5   |   |              |  |  |  |   |  |
| 6   |   | $\downarrow$ |  |  |  |   |  |

#### 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.