

Many polls provide shocking examples of the ignorance of the majority of Americans about the free enterprise system, the Founders, civics, and the founding documents of our country.

- “The majority of millennials (58 percent) would prefer to live in a socialist, communist or fascist nation rather than a capitalist one,” according to a poll by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. *Washington Times*, 2017
- 70 percent of millennials said they'd be somewhat or extremely likely to vote for a socialist candidate, according to a recent YouGov poll.
- A survey conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center in 2017 found that most Americans are ignorant of basic facts about the Constitution. In their survey posted September, 2019, only 2 in 5 American adults (39%) correctly named the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial.
- The Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs commissioned a poll in 2009 that found that 77 percent of students in public high schools could not name George Washington as our first president. (A poll in Arizona had similar results.)
- Reported by Allan Brownfeld, CDN (Communities Digital News) in April, 2018:
 - “More Americans could identify Michael Jackson as the composer of “Beat It” and “Billie Jean” than could identify the Bill of Rights as a body of amendments to the U.S. Constitution.
 - “More than 50% of respondents attributed the quote, “*From each according to his ability to each according to his needs,*” to either Thomas Paine, George Washington or Barack Obama. The quote is actually from Karl Marx, author of *The Communist Manifesto*.
 - “More than a third polled did not know the century in which the American Revolution took place. Half of the respondents believed the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation or the War of 1812 were before the American Revolution.
 - “More than half misidentify the system of government established in the Constitution as a direct democracy, rather than a republic. However, this is a question that immigrants qualifying for U.S. citizenship must correctly answer.”

Education is the answer, but not the status quo! We need new Pro-American, Pro-Free Enterprise curriculum in our schools from the Freedom Education Foundation.

The foundations of our Constitutional Republic and the free enterprise system have long been under attack. Our young people know little of the principles employed that resulted in wonderful freedom, prosperity and the greatest nation on earth. Ignorance and misinformation about economics have resulted in schools that teach that America is not good and not a beacon of freedom to the world. Instead of focusing on the “sins of the fathers” and denigrating the Founders and the United States of America, we must promote legislation in the states requiring standalone civics education classes and we must produce excellent curriculum for schools that teaches about the founding principles and Founding Documents that established the United States of America.

The FreedomCourse workbooks and software have 20 sessions and the “third edition” will be ready in the fall of 2020. The curriculum includes sessions on the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Northwest Ordinance, and the U.S. Constitution (including the Bill of Rights). It was developed in large part by Hillsdale College and has been tested in eight schools across the country. The courses include American Revolutionary War history, the full texts of the Founding Documents, Discussion Questions, Activities, Quizzes and a Final Exam. Many states will adopt the curriculum as a requirement for high school graduation. We will expend great effort advocating for adoption of the curriculum in the states. And we will produce and broadcast educational programs to promote freedom for future generations.