

# Professional Development Opportunities with the National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery (NPG) presents the wonderful diversity of individuals who have left—and are leaving—their mark on our country and our culture. A museum of history and biography, NPG uses art to introduce visitors to figures who have had a significant impact on American culture. The Education Department has developed innovative strategies for educators to use the portraits in the NPG collection to teach about American history.

*Thank you for an incredibly well-done and relevant workshop that had our Teaching American History teachers so engaged! You are a wonderful presenter—the three hours just flew by!*

—Donna Sack, Teaching American History Grant Project Director, Naperville, Illinois

Educators at NPG are ready to assist you in preparing the teachers who attend your professional development workshops to teach American history with new, thoughtful strategies, images, and lesson plans. NPG educators will work with you to tailor the program to fit your criteria—we want to include pieces from your collection as well. We can design activities and lessons to fit eras and themes throughout American history. We offer a half or full-day program. Both programs provide examples, modeling of looking strategies, demonstration of lessons, and image resources for direct use in the classroom. In addition, participants will receive a folder with educational resources for your general use.

If you are interested in working with the Portrait Gallery, please contact Briana Zavadil White ([WhiteBZ@si.edu](mailto:WhiteBZ@si.edu)). We will create a custom program for you and your local educators. A half-day workshop is \$500; a full day is \$1,000 (plus the cost of travel, hotel, and per diem).

## What to expect at a workshop:

- Fun, engaging activities
- Time for teacher interaction and brainstorming
- Modeling of looking strategies with NPG collections and your institution's collection
- Content related to historical era being covered



*I thought I knew what I needed to teach about portraits, but was I wrong! I learned so much about the collection and best practices. Your lessons gave me some great ideas that I will use next week!*

—Susan Schmidt, Wood Acres Elementary School, Bethesda, Maryland

## Sample Schedule:

- Welcome, introductions, goals of workshop
- Introduction to “Reading Portraiture”
- Model learning to look strategy (for example. compare and contrast Pocahontas portraits)
- Create a museum label activity
- Develop a lesson plan
- Share and closure



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