



2026 Veterans Day Digital Content Contest Teacher's Guide- HIGH SCHOOL

2026: “Happy Birthday America”

The mission of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD) is to provide a permanent living memorial honoring U.S. Military and Veterans; provide facilities and support programs to promote a legacy of service for preserving our community's and country's foundational ideals. Veterans Day is an opportunity to honor and give thanks to those who have served or are serving in the military, those who preserve the American way of life.

The resources included in this Teacher's Guide can be used to talk to your class about the history of Veterans Day and introduce them to this year's theme: “Happy Birthday America.”

History of Veterans Day:

Veterans Day is held on November 11th, which began as a celebration of peace after World War I ended. It was originally called Armistice Day, to celebrate the truce signed between America and Germany during World War I. In 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day, to honor all veterans.

Resources for teaching your students about Veterans Day:

[Veterans Day and the Meaning of Sacrifice](#)

[History of Veterans Day](#) (Video)

[The History of Veterans Day](#)

What is America's 250th Anniversary?

On July 4, 2026, the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The theme “Happy Birthday America” gives us an opportunity to reflect on 250 years of American history, the ideals of freedom and self-government, and the generations who have served to preserve them. Veterans are an important part of that story. Their service and sacrifice have helped protect the freedoms that allow each generation to celebrate, participate in, and shape our nation. The anniversary also coincides with the Clovis Veterans Memorial District's 80th Anniversary, connecting our community's legacy of honoring veterans with this historic national milestone.

What is the history of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District?

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District was created in 1946, just after World War II, when the people of Clovis wanted a special place to honor those who had served and sacrificed for our country. Over the years, the District has grown into a center for the community, providing space for veterans' organizations, civic groups, schools, and families to gather. It is centered on the

ideals of honoring veterans, educating the community, and inspiring future generations. For 80 years, the District has kept that promise by hosting events like Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, supporting local veterans, and sharing history through exhibits and programs at the Community Heritage Center.

Starting a conversation...

Introduce Veterans Day to your students and discuss why we celebrate our veterans. Review the history and meaning of America's 250th Anniversary, this year's theme "Happy Birthday America," and the history of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Encourage students to consider how military service, citizenship, and remembrance connect America's past to its future.

Discuss with the students.

- What does "Happy Birthday America" mean to you and your generation?
- As America celebrates 250 years, what people, events, ideals, or achievements from our nation's history are important to remember?
- How have veterans and members of the U.S. military helped protect America's freedoms and ideals across generations?
- How does celebrating the Clovis Veterans Memorial District's 80th Anniversary connect to America's 250th Anniversary and the responsibility to honor veterans?
- What role can students and young people play in shaping America's next 250 years?
- How can digital storytelling connect America's past, present, and future while honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans?

Resources

[National Constitution Center](#)

[Library of Congress Veterans History Project](#)

[This is What Democracy Looks Like](#)

"Happy Birthday America" Prompt:

In 2026, the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, marking 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. For 80 years, the Clovis Veterans Memorial District has helped our community honor the veterans whose service and sacrifice are part of America's story. This year's theme, "Happy Birthday America," invites students to reflect on our nation's history, celebrate the freedoms and ideals veterans have helped defend, and consider the role their generation will play in America's future. What stories, people, moments, symbols, or ideas best represent America at 250—and what do you hope the next 250 years will bring?

Create digital content of your choice (video, digital art, website, podcast, animation, or other digital format) around the theme: "Happy Birthday America."

How to Enter:

Submit your entry online at cvmdistrict.org or bring a copy on a USB drive to the Clovis Veterans Memorial District- 808 Fourth Street, Clovis, CA 93612. If you have any questions regarding the contest please call the Clovis Veterans Memorial District at (559) 299-0471.

Related Common Core Standards:*9th-10th Grade***CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.8**

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

*11th- 12th Grade***CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.7**

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a questions (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.8

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.