

To the Instructor

What Makes America Tick? is a comprehensive package of instructional materials for intermediate and high-intermediate students of English. It is a systematic bridge into simple advanced skills that focuses on integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening within an authentic context based on culture, vocabulary, and sociolinguistic appropriateness. Critical relationships among all elements of language are explored. The controlling philosophy is that lower-proficiency language students should be offered the opportunity to study language as it applies to higher-level thinking activities. Such activities should be based on cultural artifacts such as art, music, literature, and history of the target culture. These higher-level topics have traditionally been reserved for those students who already possess advanced-level vocabulary and structures.

The objectives of this textbook are to:

- improve reading skills by engaging learners in readings that give an overview of important events in 20th century U.S. history
- increase learner proficiency in high-frequency vocabulary words and improve skills in defining and using their derivatives
- improve formal and informal writing skills via personal responses to events portrayed in the text and in optional journal keeping
- improve formal presentation, informal discussion, and speaking skills via both in-class discussions and more structured peer interview situations
- enhance listening skills via peer and instructor interaction
- introduce students to academic concepts such as footnotes and summarizing by incorporating them throughout the text
- expose learners to and provide practice opportunities for sociolinguistically appropriate usages of U.S. American English
- provide interaction with authentic cultural artifacts from the 20th century, including literature, poetry, artwork, sculpture, photography, and speeches, and to make explicit their contextual importance

- create opportunities for learning and putting into practice a working knowledge of significant and relevant historical events, as well as understanding their relationships to current U.S. American institutions, politics, attitudes, and values.

What Makes America Tick? consists of eight units. Each unit contains a level-appropriate reading; authentic photos; vocabulary lists and activities; various cloze and open-response activities for reading, speaking, listening, and writing; a Language Focus activity; and a Link to Today section that examines the current effects of history on people's lives. Classroom activities engage students in meaningful, cross-cultural, information-gap comparisons of politics, attitudes, and values with the aim of eliciting their observations of and reactions to various policies, movements, and events in U.S. American history. Students have the opportunity to both learn about external culture as well as explore their experiences within and relationships to it.

It was not possible to include every significant historical event in the 20th century, so the focus is on those events that have left cultural imprints throughout the century and ones with the most far-reaching social implications. Every effort was made to ensure that this text is as culturally rich and authentic as possible, but copyright constraints made it difficult to include everything we would have liked to include. As a result, instructors are prompted to guide students to Internet sites to view some authentic pieces of art, such as the Andy Warhol Museum or the King Center, or for other information to support the readings and discussions. Departing from and/or supplementing material according to instructor and student interest is encouraged.