

## Project: A Pictorial History of the United States

**Question: What were the social, political, cultural, and economic changes that took place in America in the decade or so after World War II?**

**Directions:** You will make a series of claims.

- These 15 to 25 claims should each make an argument for something changing in America. This claim should make an argument, not just identify a topic. ***“The Cold War”*** is a topic. ***“During the Cold War, many Americans felt a fear that communist spies and threats were everywhere”*** is a claim.
- You will then provide evidence through pictures that what you claim is indeed what happened.
- Each picture should have a short caption explaining what it is, and how it proves your claim.
- You should identify the social, political, cultural, and economic elements of the changes.

By the time you are finished, the major changes in America should all be represented in your presentation. If, for example, your presentation fails to acknowledge the fear of communism or atomic war, you’ve missed something and your presentation is flawed.

**Protips:**

1. If you need more than 25 claims to cover everything, your claims are too specific and narrow. Adjust them to fit everything in. If you’ve covered everything in less than 15 claims, you’re probably not being specific enough.
2. Taking a look at your learning targets could be very useful in determining what needs to be covered.
3. If you think of your claims as the thesis statements in a series of essays, and the pictures as the body paragraphs you’d write for support in those essays, you’re probably on the right track.

**Example:**

One possible claim could be ***“After WWII, life in America was increasingly built around the automobile.”***

You could prove this claim by providing pictures of the federal highway system being constructed (political), a drive-in movie theater (cultural), a drive-through McDonald’s restaurant, (cultural), cars being manufactured and providing the jobs after the war (economic), etc. Together, these pictures should prove that your claim is correct. Anyone who disagreed should have to admit that you are right after they see your pictures. (And read your captions too, I suppose.)