



# ND250 CLASSROOM BIRTHDAY PARTY TOOLKIT

## High School (Grades 9–12)

Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the United States,  
1776–2026

### Teacher Overview

This classroom birthday party kit encourages high school students to reflect on American history, civic ideals, North Dakota’s role in our American Story and the future of the country as the United States marks its 250th anniversary.

**Total Time:** 45–60 minutes

**Preparation:** Print the student discussion and reflection sheets.

Teachers may facilitate these activities through discussion, writing, or small group work.

### Activity 1: America at 250 Discussion

**Students discuss the following questions in small groups:**

1. What ideals from 1776 remain important today?
2. What progress has the United States made over the past 250 years?
3. What challenges should future generations address?

Groups may share key ideas with the class.

### Activity 2: Message to Americans in 2276

**Students respond to the prompt:**

If you could send a message to Americans 250 years from now, what would it say?

Students write a short letter describing their hopes for the future of the country.



## Activity 3: My Role in America's Future

Students complete the following reflections:

- One issue I care about is \_\_\_\_\_.
- One way citizens can contribute to their country is \_\_\_\_\_.
- My hope for America in 50 years is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity 4: North Dakota's Role in the Future of America

Students reflect on how North Dakota contributes to the nation today.

Topics may include:

- Agriculture
- Energy production
- Military bases
- Natural resources

Prompt:

How might North Dakota shape the future of the United States over the next 50 years with our people, our resources or our ideas?

## Optional Classroom Celebration Ideas

Teachers may choose to include a classroom discussion or activity.

Ideas include:

- **America Through Music**  
Students share songs that reflect different periods of American history.
- **Founders and Modern Democracy Discussion**  
Students compare ideas from the founding era with modern democratic values.
- **Future America Predictions**  
Students write predictions about what the United States may look like in 2126.
- **History Markers**  
Either make a time capsule or pretend to make a time capsule. Have students bring something that they think would be significant to 2026 and this moment in history and the reason why they would include it in a time capsule to be opened 50 or 100 years from now.
- **Class Photo**  
Teachers may organize a class photo recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States.