

# ABC-CLIO's Online History Databases Support Social Studies Instruction at Cypress Bay High School in Broward County, Florida

## CHALLENGE

Scott Selvidge is an 11th Grade Honors History Teacher at Cypress Bay High School, the largest school in Broward County, Florida. He was faced with the challenge of providing his students with engaging, informative, up-to-date resources to support his classroom instruction. Not being a proponent of lecturing, and knowing that 21st century students prefer a technology component to their studies, Selvidge sought an alternative to standard, traditional textbooks.

## SOLUTION

Selvidge has used the ABC-CLIO databases for the past five years in lieu of textbooks. According to Selvidge: "I find a lot of the tools very helpful, especially the research list; I can go in ahead of time and create a research list of links to events and people to provide my students with more concise learning material."

### The ABC-CLIO Advantage

Selvidge further notes: "This is what sets ABC-CLIO apart from other resources, vendors, and popular search engines:

- Databases are constantly being updated and expanded to provide new links and resources to use in teaching a subject
- Teachers can create links to specific subject materials ahead

of time for students

- Supplemental text, images and media files are available
- Information is authoritative, unbiased, verifiable, and documented
- Each database is specific to a subject, filtering out irrelevant information and resources you'd get from general search engines
- The databases are easy to navigate
- More current and up-to-date than textbooks
- Students can 'surf' safely without getting into dangerous sites
- Great customer service response "usually less than 24 hours"

### What Colleagues and Students Are Reporting

Selvidge has heard positive feedback about ABC-CLIO databases from his fellow educators at Cypress Bay, even among those who previously took a more lecture-oriented, traditional textbook approach to teaching a subject.

Among students, he has observed: "Using ABC-CLIO databases allows them to utilize technology which they find engaging and motivating, and 'puts a gleam in their eyes!' And, they like not having to carry heavy textbooks around anymore."

*"ABC-CLIO databases give you more accuracy...less bias; they give students a better perspective and then they can draw their own conclusions about x, y, or z events."*

– Scott Selvidge, 11th Grade Honors History Teacher, Cypress Bay High School

## QUICK FACTS

### Cypress Bay High School Broward County Public Schools Weston, Florida

#### A Profile:

- **High School, grades 9-12**
- **4200 students**
- **High school students have a three-year social studies requirement:**
  - World History (freshman)
  - American History (junior)
  - Government (senior)
- **ABC-CLIO Online Databases Used:**
  - American History
  - American Government
  - World Geography
  - World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras
  - World History: The Modern Era