The student will demonstrate skills for historical and geographical analysis and responsible citizenship, including the ability to
a) identify, analyze, and interpret primary and secondary source documents, records, and data, including artifacts, diaries, letters, photographs, journals, newspapers, historical accounts, and art to increase understanding of events and life in the United States;
b) evaluate the authenticity, authority, and credibility of sources;
c) formulate historical questions and defend findings based on inquiry and interpretation;
d) develop perspectives of time and place, including the construction of maps and various timelines of events, periods, and personalities in American history;
e) communicate findings orally and in analytical essays and/or comprehensive papers;
f) develop skills in discussion, debate, and persuasive writing with respect to enduring issues and determine how divergent viewpoints have been addressed and reconciled;
g) apply geographic skills and reference sources to understand how relationships between humans and their environment have changed over time;
h) interpret the significance of excerpts from famous speeches and other documents;
i) identify the costs and benefits of specific choices made including the consequences, both intended and unintended, of the decision and how people and nations responded to positive and negative incentives.

The skills identified in Standard VUS.1a-h are cited in the Essential Skills column of each chart for Virginia and United States History with the exception of "e" (communicate findings orally and in analytical essays and/or comprehensive papers) and "f" (develop skills in discussion, debate, and persuasive writing with respect to enduring issues and determine how divergent viewpoints have been addressed and reconciled). Students should practice these skills throughout the year. However, the skills in item “e” and “f” will not be assessed on the Standards of Learning test.