Introduction:

The daily activities created for each of the *Today in Georgia History* segments are designed to meet the Georgia Performance Standards for Reading Across the Curriculum, and Grade Eight: Georgia Studies. For each date, educators can choose from three optional activities differentiated for various levels of student ability. Each activity focuses on engaging the student in context specific vocabulary and improving the student’s ability to communicate about historical topics.

One suggestion is to use the *Today in Georgia History* video segments and daily activities as a “bell ringer” at the beginning of each class period. Using the same activity daily provides consistency and structure for the students and may help teachers utilize the first 15-20 minutes of class more effectively.

Optional Activities:

**Level 1:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a complete sentence for each of the vocabulary terms. Student created sentences should reflect the meaning of the word based on the context of the video segment. Have students share a sampling of sentences as a way to check for understanding.

**Level 2:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list for that day’s segment before watching the video and have them guess the meaning of each word based on their previous knowledge. The teacher may choose to let the students work alone or in groups. After watching the video, have the students revise their definitions to better reflect the meaning of the words based on the context of the video. As a final step, have the students compare and contrast their definitions to their textbook, dictionary or other teacher provided materials definitions.

**Level 3:** Provide the students with the vocabulary list and have them use their textbook, a dictionary, or other teacher provided materials to define each term. After watching the video, have the students write a five sentence paragraph based on the provided writing prompts.
Vocabulary/Writing Prompts:

Vocabulary Terms
Dropout
Focal Point
Opposition
Integration
Patron
Unapologetic
Controversial

Writing Prompts
1. Prompt 1
Imagine you are a longtime customer of Lester Maddox’ restaurant. You’ve heard that Maddox is going to close his restaurant rather than allow African Americans to enter. How would you try to convince him to change his mind? Write a letter explaining your arguments.

2. Prompt 2
How would you feel if someone refused to allow you to come into a restaurant simply because of how you looked? Write a five sentence paragraph describing your thoughts.

Related Georgia Performance Standards:

Reading Across the Curriculum (Grades 6-12)

SSRC1 Students will enhance reading in all curriculum areas by:
  c. Building vocabulary knowledge
     • Demonstrate an understanding of contextual vocabulary in various subjects.
     • Use content vocabulary in writing and speaking.
     • Explore understanding of new words found in subject area texts.
  d. Establishing context
     • Explore life experiences related to subject area content.
     • Discuss in both writing and speaking how certain words are subject area related.
     • Determine strategies for finding content and contextual meaning for unknown words.

Grade 8 Georgia Studies
SS8H11 The student will evaluate the role of Georgia in the modern civil rights movement.
a. Describe major developments in civil rights and Georgia’s role during the 1940s and 1950s; include the roles of Herman Talmadge, Benjamin Mays, the 1946 governor’s race and the end of the white primary, Brown v. Board of Education, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 1956 state flag.
b. Analyze the role Georgia and prominent Georgians played in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; include such events as the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Sibley Commission, admission of Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter to the University of Georgia, Albany Movement, March on Washington, Civil Rights Act, the election of Maynard Jackson as mayor of Atlanta, and the role of Lester Maddox.
c. Discuss the impact of Andrew Young on Georgia.

SS8H12 The student will explain the importance of significant social, economic, and political developments in Georgia since 1970.
a. Evaluate the consequences of the end of the county unit system and reapportionment.
b. Describe the role of Jimmy Carter in Georgia as state senator, governor, president, and past president.
c. Analyze the impact of the rise of the two-party system in Georgia.
d. Evaluate the effect of the 1996 Olympic Games on Georgia.
e. Evaluate the importance of new immigrant communities to the growth and economy of Georgia.

SS8CG3 The student will analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.
a. Explain the qualifications, term, election, and duties of the governor and lieutenant governor.
b. Describe the organization of the executive branch, with emphasis on major policy areas of state programs; include education, human resources, public safety, transportation, economic development, and natural resources.
c. Evaluate how the executive branch fulfills its role through state agencies that administer programs and enforce laws.

Grade 8 English and Language Arts

ELA8R2 The student understands and acquires new vocabulary and uses it correctly in reading and writing. The student
a. Determines pronunciations, meanings, alternate word choices, parts of speech, or etymologies of words.
b. Determines the meaning of unfamiliar words in content and context specific to reading and writing.
c. Demonstrates an initial understanding of the history of the English Language.

ELA8W1 The student produces writing that establishes an appropriate organizational structure, sets a context and engages the reader, maintains a coherent focus throughout, and signals a satisfying closure. The student
a. Selects a focus, organizational structure, and a point of view based on purpose, genre expectations, audience, length, and format requirements.
b. Writes texts of a length appropriate to address the topic or tell the story.
c. Uses traditional structures for conveying information (e.g., chronological order, cause and effect, similarity and difference, and posing and answering a
question).
d. Uses appropriate structures to ensure coherence (e.g., transition elements, parallel structure).
e. Supports statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, facts and statistics, and specific examples.