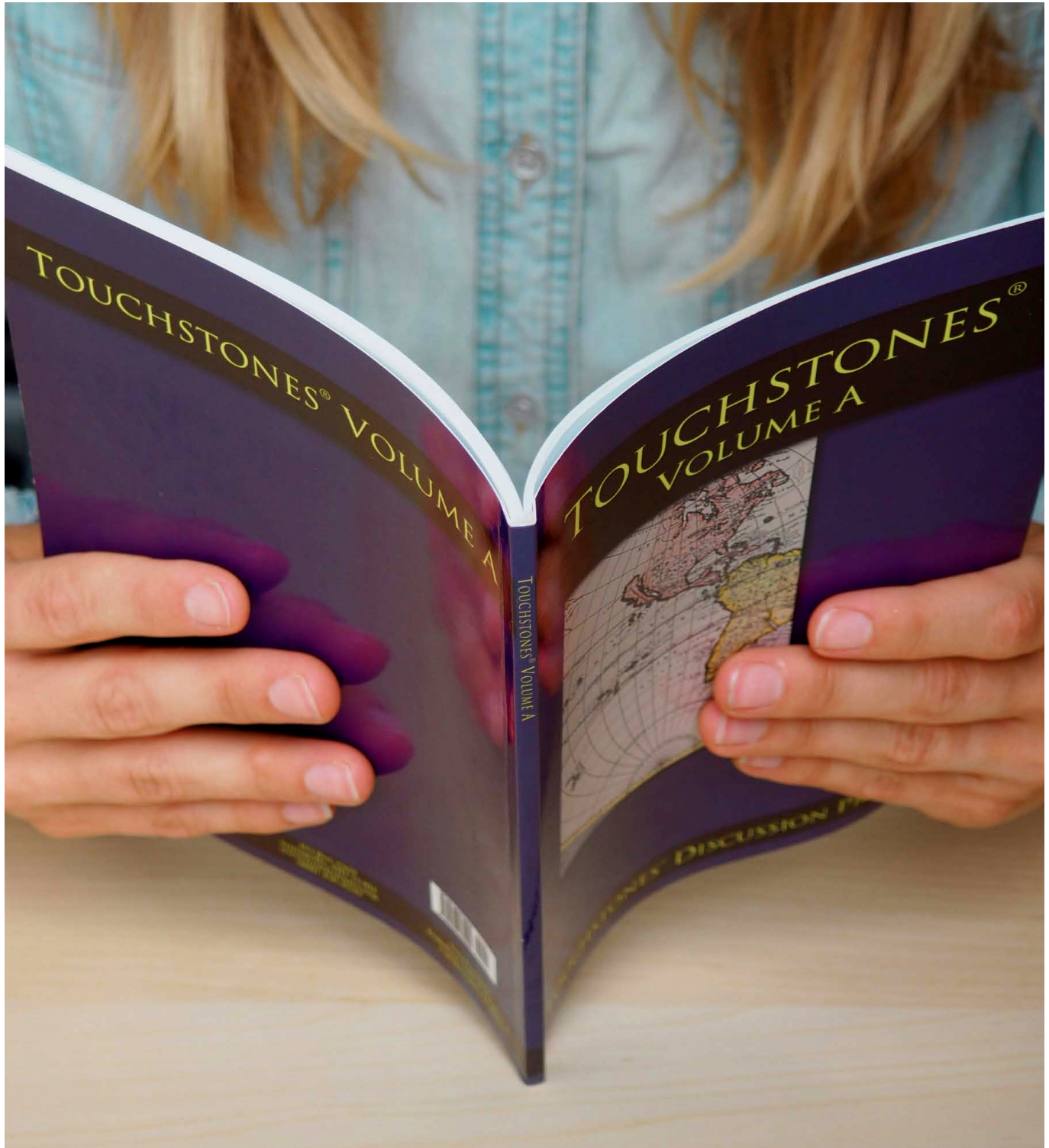




Touchstones®
Discussion Project



Program Catalog



Touchstones® is a non-profit on a mission to build a more inclusive world, one discussion at a time. Collaborative learning requires different skills than learning as an individual. With Touchstones, these skills are explicitly addressed and intentionally built. In our discussion programs, every student has an equal right to speak and learn and an equal responsibility to listen and make room for others. Touchstones democratizes education to prepare your students for academic success and civic engagement in an ever-changing world. Learn more about how Touchstones shifts the roles of teachers, students, and texts for discussion on our website.

Touchstones Essential Skills



Speaking



Cooperative
Learning



Confidence



Active
Listening



Leadership



Analytical
Reasoning



Reflective
Thinking

How Touchstones Works

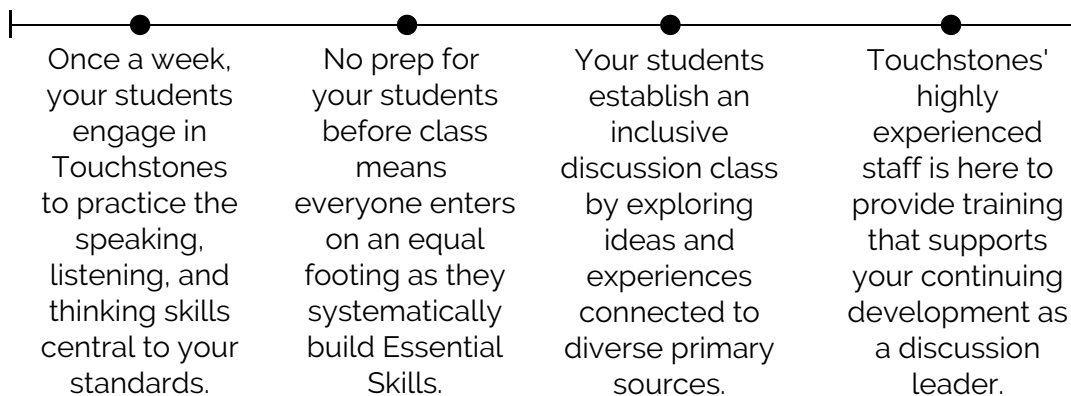


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Touchstones
Online Classroom

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a green button-down shirt, is seated and looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. She is holding a clipboard in her left hand and a pen in her right hand, gesturing with her fingers. The background is blurred, showing an indoor setting with other people.

*Touchstones
is building
community
through
discussion
everywhere.*

*The world is changing.
Teaching and learning
should too!*



Touchstones Professional Development

Since 1984, we've trained tens of thousands of educators, and participants consistently rate Touchstones workshops as some of the best training they've had! Our highly experienced facilitators are here to help you prepare for success with Touchstones. Whether you are an individual teacher interested in using Touchstones in your classroom, a district administrator looking to implement Touchstones division-wide, or a professional in higher education, we offer a variety of training options to support your development as a Touchstones discussion leader.



Workshops

Touchstones offers regularly scheduled virtual and in-person workshops throughout the year, open to any educator. Three levels of training help you work toward a Certificate in Discussion Leadership.

Cost: \$175-\$255 per person per workshop.
Location: In-person and Virtual
Visit our website to register

Coaching

Get personalized support for you or your staff with individual coaching. Educators identify their goals and Touchstones staff engage in an observation and feedback cycle to support growth.

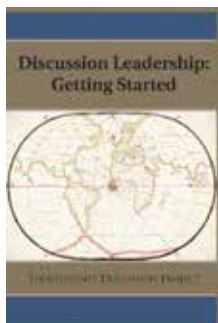
Cost: Reach out to us for a quote
Location: In-person and Virtual

Custom Training

We offer in-service workshops and professional development so schools and districts can support their entire staff in successfully implementing Touchstones or developing as a faculty team. Each workshop is tailored to your unique needs and goals.

Cost: Starts at \$4,500 for 20 participants, plus travel expenses for facilitators
Location: In-person and Virtual

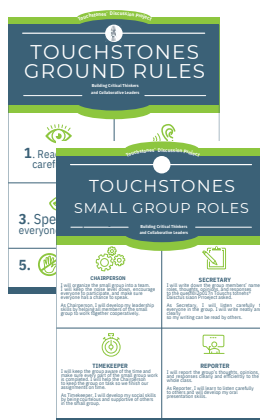
Getting Started with Touchstones



Discussion Leadership: Getting Started

Discussion Leadership: Getting Started covers all aspects of the Touchstones method, including individual and small group work, questioning techniques, discussion dynamics, and common behavioral problems. Its practical advice helps new discussion leaders get started and enhances the established skills of experienced leaders.

\$24.95
Also available in French



Touchstones Two-Poster Set

This two-poster set reminds your students of the Touchstones Ground Rules and helps them to understand the different leadership roles they will assume in small groups.

\$30.95 for both posters

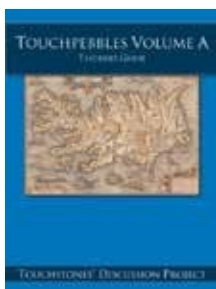
*Touchstones is
joyful, student-
centered, authentic
learning!*



Elementary School Volumes

In Touchpebbles, your 2nd-5th grade students build speaking, listening, and cooperative learning skills by exploring ideas from diverse primary sources. No matter the school context or where you teach, Touchpebbles gives you the tools to help your students take charge of their learning today and begin building the discussion skills they need for tomorrow.

Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom on an annual subscription basis and require a minimum purchase of 10 student licenses. All class sets include 25 Student Editions and 1 Teacher's Guide. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or schoolprograms@touchstones.org if your needs differ.



Touchpebbles Volume A

Touchpebbles Volume A uses discussion to foster an inclusive classroom where students of all abilities learn to discuss a range of ideas through 30 lesson plans on diverse texts, including tales from Aesop and other early cultures, paintings by Winslow Homer and Sotatsu, and passages from ancient Greek and Chinese philosophers and historians.

Class set: \$846.70

Digital: \$15.95 per student

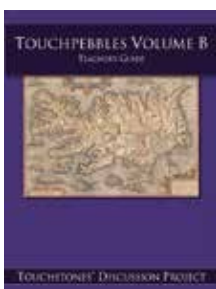


Touchpebbles Volume C

Touchpebbles Volume C brings an engaging new set of primary source texts for discussion, along with full lesson plans that develop your students communication, interpersonal, and collaboration skills while building vital critical thinking skills. In this volume, you'll find philosophy from Hume and Laozi, folktales from Bhutan and Iceland, works of fine art, and the writings of Anna Freud, George Washington Carver, and Maria Montessori.

Class set: \$846.70

Digital: \$15.95 per student



Touchpebbles Volume B

Touchpebbles Volume B offers the same proven Touchstones method with an additional 30 lesson plans and texts for inviting discussion in the classroom. Touchpebbles B may be used after Touchpebbles A or to introduce Touchstones to slightly older students in elementary grades. Featured in Touchpebbles B are engaging texts such as The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams and thought provoking selections from Francis Bacon and Malcolm X; folktales from Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East; and paintings by Mondrian and the Bangba tribe.

Class set: \$846.70

Digital: \$15.95 per student

“

[Touchstones] has changed our students', teachers', and even my own understanding of what school can be and how we can create empowering spaces to engage with complex ideas.

Colin Hogan,
Learning Community Charter School, Jersey City, NJ

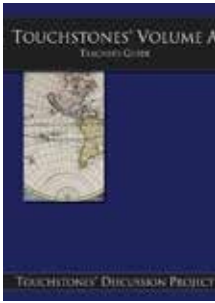
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Middle School Volumes

Touchstones for grades 6-8 supports the investigation of diverse perspectives, intentionally cultivates discourse skills, and builds community using primary sources as a starting point. Our middle school volumes give your students the tools they need to engage in respectful and inclusive discussion while developing as collaborative leaders.

Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom on an annual subscription basis and require a minimum purchase of 10 student licenses. All class sets include 25 Student Editions and 1 Teacher's Guide. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or schoolprograms@touchstones.org if your needs differ.





Touchstones Volume A

Through Touchstones Volume A, students consider lessons offered in folktales, evaluate and discuss early historical accounts, explore the foundations of society through Plato and Pascal, examine compassion in Mary Shelley's compelling narrative, and reflect on the human struggle in Langston Hughes' poetry and writings by Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Dubois, among others.

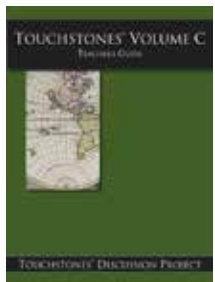
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Touchstones Volume B

Touchstones Volume B may be used after Touchstones Volume A or as a first Touchstones volume. Texts from philosopher and psychologist William James, mathematician René Descartes, and political advocate Mary Wollstonecraft invite students to reflect on the consequences of actions, while selections from the Odyssey, medical ethics, and ancient Chinese philosophy invite discussions on responsibility.

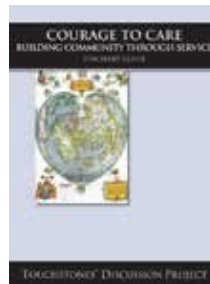
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Touchstones Volume C

With Touchstones Volume C, students develop discussion and thinking skills required for a range of leadership roles. Touchstones selections from philosophers Boethius and Voltaire, founders of the United States, mathematicians Dedekind and G.H. Hardy, and works by artists da Vinci, Kollwitz, and Vermeer challenge students to evaluate multiple perspectives and collaborate to understand and address complex questions.

Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Courage to Care: Building Community Through Service

Released by Touchstones in 2011, Courage to Care: Building Community through Service explores our responsibilities as citizens. The Touchstones texts are arranged thematically to cover essential issues of trust, respect, cooperation, compassion, and leadership. All students will learn to find and share their voice on social and civic issues as they discover and discuss important literary and philosophical texts together.

Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student




Where'd They Get That Idea?

Touchstones' Where'd They Get that Idea features short, primary source texts from mathematicians and scientists. Through individual and small group work, class discussion, and evaluation activities, students develop discussion skills in math and science. They gain understanding of these subjects as a series of assertions, questions, and investigations, which rely on strategic decision making. As students apply their own thinking to understand the viewpoints and processes expressed by the authors, students will see themselves as both mathematical and scientific.

Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



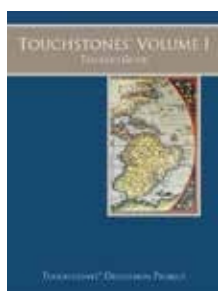
A photograph of three students in a classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a black and white striped shirt, is smiling and looking towards the left. She is holding a blue pencil. To her left, a young woman with dark skin and braided hair is also smiling and looking towards the left. Further left, a young woman with blonde hair and glasses is partially visible. In the background, there is a whiteboard with some writing on it, and a young woman with dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down. The classroom has wooden beams on the ceiling and some posters on the wall.

*Touchstones develops
active listening,
intentional speaking,
critical thinking, and
shared leadership.*

High School Volumes

Touchstones prepares your 9th-12th grade students for life as they learn how to discuss complex topics, integrate diverse perspectives, and practice leadership. Our programs democratize education to prepare your students for academic success and civic engagement in our constantly changing world.

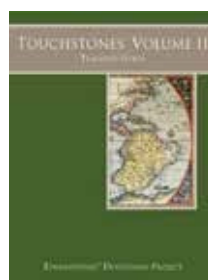
Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom on an annual subscription basis and require a minimum purchase of 10 student licenses. All class sets include 25 Student Editions and 1 Teacher's Guide. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or schoolprograms@touchstones.org if your needs differ.



Touchstones Volume I

Using Touchstones Volume I, students identify and examine their own assumptions, presuppositions, and opinions and compare them with those of their peers, and with authors such as Aristotle, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Kafka, Mencius, and others. Touchstones lessons invite careful reading and mindful discussion on issues of truth, justice, equality, friendship, and freedom.

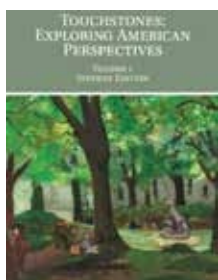
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Touchstones Volume II

Following Volume I, Touchstones Volume II helps students to refine their oral and written communication, cooperation, and leadership skills with 30 additional lessons on humanities texts from around the world. Along with Touchstones discussion exercises, each lesson in Volume II includes a specific writing assignment to focus student thinking on the development and expression of coherent ideas in an organized format.

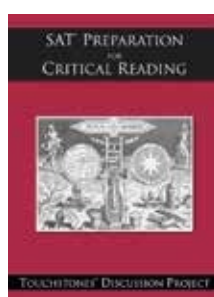
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Exploring American Perspectives

The first volume of this series features selections from W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, Lois Mailou Jones, and other Black writers, philosophers, poets, and visual artists. These diverse texts serve as tools for students' shared exploration of uniquely American perspectives. Each of the 22 lessons fosters and enhances problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership through direct practice.

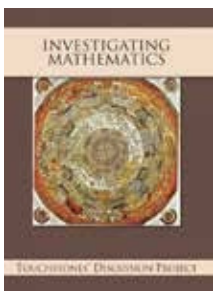
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Touchstones Preparation for the Critical Reading Section of the SAT

This Touchstones volume features texts, sample test questions, and discussion exercises that strengthen students' abilities to evaluate written material for specific purposes. Students encounter challenging texts while practicing test-taking strategies that prepare them for improved performance on the Critical Reading Section of the SAT®. The Touchstones approach has proven successful in dramatically raising students' scores overall on the verbal portion of the SAT®.

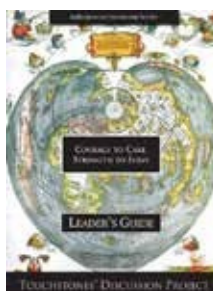
Class set: \$830.70
Not available in digital



Investigating Mathematics

Investigating Mathematics gives students in I.B., A.P., and advanced math classes a chance to explore the underlying principles of mathematics and science with Touchstones lessons and primary source texts. Through discussion, students come to understand mathematics as a creative activity that draws on multiple perspectives and diverse talents.

Class set: \$830.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Courage to Care: Strength to Serve

Courage to Care: Strength to Serve is an anthology of Touchstones texts and questions for discussion that invite students to reflect on all aspects of community service. Arranged by theme, the texts offer students and teachers alike a format in which to openly consider the opportunities and challenges associated with service. Topics covered in the volume include the preparation for service, historical perspectives, general reflections, and service to others.

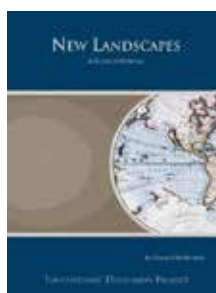
Class set: \$830.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



Mapping the Future

Students using Mapping the Future as a course companion for Theory of Knowledge engage in collaborative explorations of philosophical, political, and scientific constructs through primary source texts. Each lesson features a classical text paired with a contemporary text, which serve to illuminate our thinking and presuppositions within a world of increasing cultural and intellectual diversity and global interconnectivity. Through Mapping the Future, students learn to analyze, evaluate, synthesize systematically, and apply knowledge as reflective thinkers, mindful discussants, and ethical leaders. This volume can be used as a course companion for Theory of Knowledge in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP).

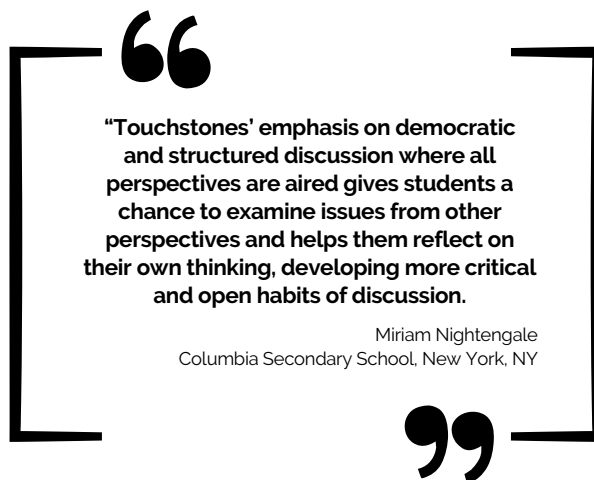
Class set: \$1,398.70
Digital: \$15.95 per student



New Landscapes

The longer selections in New Landscapes encourage students to reflect on the foundations of their basic attitudes and assumptions. Students use the texts to delve into their presuppositions and examine sources of their own knowledge, engaging creatively and effectively as leaders. New Landscapes helps upper level undergraduates and college faculty alike to develop seminar leadership skills.

Class set: \$1,428.70
Not available in digital



“Touchstones’ emphasis on democratic and structured discussion where all perspectives are aired gives students a chance to examine issues from other perspectives and helps them reflect on their own thinking, developing more critical and open habits of discussion.

Miriam Nightengale
Columbia Secondary School, New York, NY



Touchstones ALIF: Readings From the Arab Tradition

Alif features 20 Touchstones lessons and texts that introduce students to central concepts within the Arab intellectual and cultural tradition. Selections from early Arab philosophers, mathematicians, sociologists, religious leaders, and astronomers, along with ancient Greek predecessors, provide students with the opportunity to consider diverse points of view and gain a wider perspective of the world of knowledge.

Class set: \$846.70
Not available in digital



Touchstones Readings in Social Studies

Most effective when used in tandem with Touchstones Volumes I and II, Touchstones Readings in Social Studies offers 87 Touchstones texts for discussion that are drawn from different historical periods and arranged into themes of Ancient History, World Cultures, Civics, U.S. History, and the Humanities. Students apply and practice their Touchstones discussion skills in content-specific classes, using the wealth of readings provided in this volume.

Class set: \$1,428.70
Not available in digital



“

“[Through Touchstones], I have learned to listen and understand views other than my own. I love the way we have started to trust each other enough to actually voice our original thoughts.”

12th grade student,
Centennial High School, Franklin, TN

”

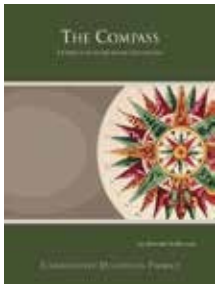
Higher Education Volumes

Touchstones supports you to systematically establish a classroom culture of respect in partnership with your students. In Touchstones discussions, your students learn to teach themselves and others, collaborate with those they perceive as different, gain greater awareness of their assumptions, and ultimately share power and responsibility for group dynamics.

Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom and can be purchased on a subscription basis by individual students or as a class with a minimum of 10 student licenses. All class sets include 25 Student Editions and 1 Teacher's Guide. We can also partner with your college or university bookstore to make volumes available to students directly. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or schoolprograms@touchstones.org to discuss the best approach for your needs.

Your students strengthen communication skills, as they form a collaborative and respectful community of learners.





The Compass

The Compass is the most flexible Touchstones volume designed for college seminar courses. It is, therefore, a useful tool for Bridge and FYE programs. Students using The Compass build essential communication and thinking skills, collectively map strategies for continuous improvement, and form a community of learners characterized by trust and respect. No advanced preparation is initially required by students, though students prepare for and lead later discussions.

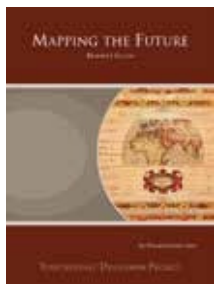
Class set: \$1,428.70
Not available in digital



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The first volume of this series features selections from W. E. B. DuBois, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, Lois Mailou Jones, and other Black writers, philosophers, poets, and visual art-ists. These diverse texts serve as tools for students' shared exploration of uniquely American perspectives. Each of the 22 lessons fosters and enhances problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership through direct practice.

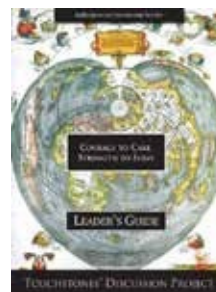
Class set: \$846.70
Digital: \$25 per student



Mapping the Future

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Class set: \$1,398.70
Digital: \$25 per student



Courage to Care: Strength to Serve

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Class set: \$830.70
Digital: \$25 per student



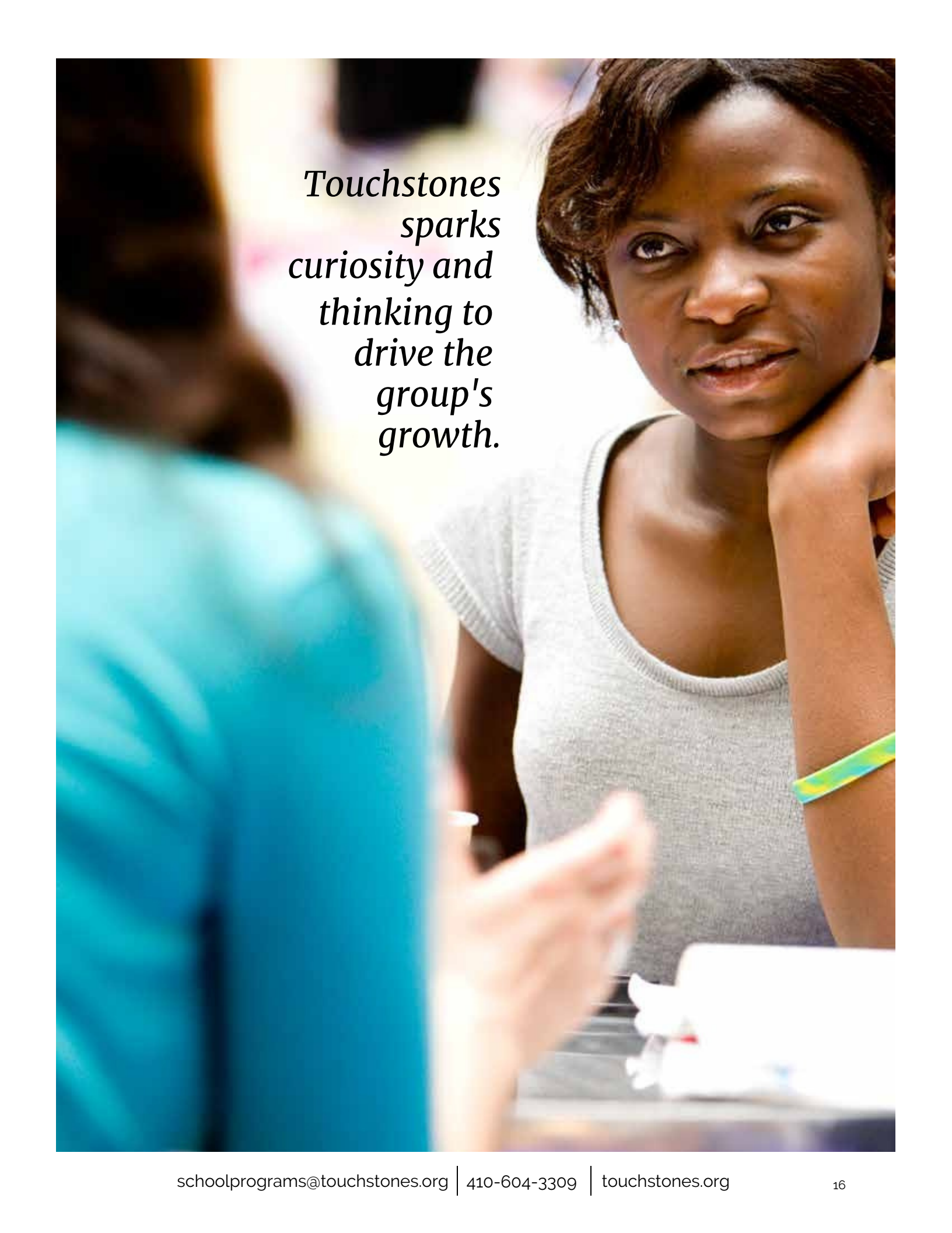
New Landscapes

The longer selections in New Landscapes encourage students to reflect on the foundations of their basic attitudes and assumptions. Students use the texts to delve into their presuppositions and examine sources of their own knowledge, engaging creatively and effectively as leaders. New Landscapes helps upper level undergraduates and college faculty alike to develop seminar leadership skills.

Class set: \$1,428.70
Not available in digital



Professor Marsha Bronstein,
Learning Communities Coordinator,
Montgomery College



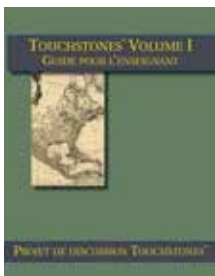
*Touchstones
sparks
curiosity and
thinking to
drive the
group's
growth.*



Touchstones in Translation

Touchstones texts in translation support your language immersion students to deepen their communication and thinking abilities in a new language, while building the same Essential Skills developed through every Touchstones program..

Digital volumes are available through our Online Classroom on an annual subscription basis and require a minimum purchase of 10 student licenses. All class sets include 25 Student Editions and 1 Teacher's Guide. Reach out to us at 410-604-3309 or schoolprograms@touchstones.org if your needs differ.

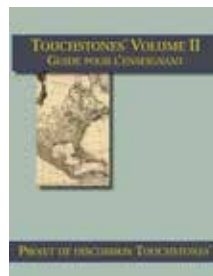


Touchstones Volume I

Using Touchstones Volume I, students identify and examine their own assumptions, presuppositions, and opinions and compare them with those of their peers, and with authors such as Aristotle, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Kafka, Mencius, and others. Touchstones lessons invite careful reading and mindful discussion on issues of truth, justice, equality, friendship, and freedom.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French and Spanish)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

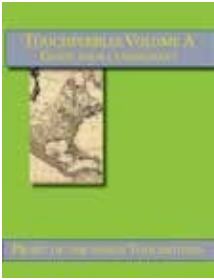


Touchstones Volume II

Following Volume I, Touchstones Volume II helps students to refine their oral and written communication, cooperation, and leadership skills with 30 additional lessons on humanities texts from around the world. Along with Touchstones discussion exercises, each lesson in Volume II includes a specific writing assignment to focus student thinking on the development and expression of coherent ideas in an organized format.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

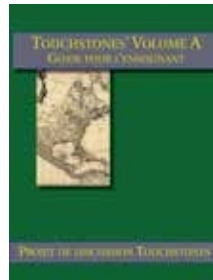


Touchpebbles Volume A

Touchpebbles Volume A uses discussion to foster an inclusive classroom where students of all abilities learn to discuss a range of ideas through 30 lesson plans on diverse texts, including tales from Aesop and other early cultures, paintings by Winslow Homer and Sotatsu, and passages from ancient Greek and Chinese philosophers and historians.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French and Spanish)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

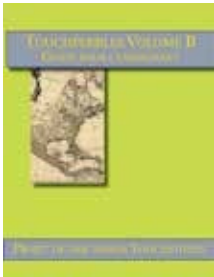


Touchstones Volume A

Through Touchstones Volume A, students consider lessons offered in folktales, evaluate and discuss early historical accounts, explore the foundations of society through Plato and Pascal, examine compassion in Mary Shelley's compelling narrative, and reflect on the human struggle in Langston Hughes' poetry and writings by Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Dubois, among others.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French, Spanish, and Haitian Kreyole)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

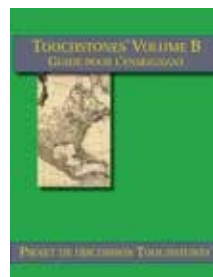


Touchpebbles Volume B

Touchpebbles Volume B offers the same proven Touchstones method with an additional 30 lesson plans and texts for inviting discussion in the classroom. Touchpebbles B may be used after Touchpebbles A or to introduce Touchstones to slightly older students in elementary grades. Featured in Touchpebbles B are engaging texts such as *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams and thought provoking selections from Francis Bacon and Malcolm X; folktales from Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East; and paintings by Mondrian and the Bangba tribe.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

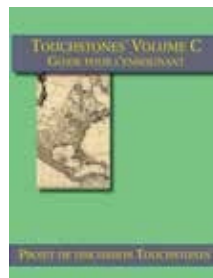


Touchstones Volume B

Touchstones Volume B may be used after Touchstones Volume A or as a first Touchstones volume. Texts from philosopher and psychologist William James, mathematician René Descartes, and political advocate Mary Wollstonecraft invite students to reflect on the consequences of actions, while selections from the *Odyssey*, medical ethics, and ancient Chinese philosophy invite discussions on responsibility.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)



Touchstones Volume C

With Touchstones Volume C, students develop discussion and thinking skills required for a range of leadership roles. Touchstones selections from philosophers Boethius and Voltaire, founders of the United States, mathematicians Dedekind and G.H. Hardy, and works by artists da Vinci, Kollwitz, and Vermeer challenge students to evaluate multiple perspectives and collaborate to understand and address complex questions.

Class set: \$846.70
(Available in French)

Digital: \$15.95 per student
(Available in French)

Touchstones Online Classroom

Touchstones Online Classroom and digital volumes give your students access to engaging, student-centered Touchstones discussions wherever they are. Reach out to schedule your free trial today!

Digital volumes are available on an annual subscription basis and require a minimum purchase of 10 student licenses.



How it Works

- Designed for synchronous learning environments
- Access is offered on an annual subscription basis running from July 1 – June 30
- Teacher accounts include everything you need to prepare for and facilitate each discussion
- Students can access texts to follow along and refer back to during the discussion

What You Get

- Custom teacher account for easy access to the Teacher's Guide, Student Edition, and student Digital Binder for your volume(s).
- Downloadable and editable Digital Binder in PDF form for your students to keep lesson activities and reflections all in one place

“

“Before I used Touchstones...I thought that I was teaching students how to discuss issues effectively. The Touchstones process showed me that I had really been teaching them to respond to questions, not to generate their own questions, not to generate their own thinking. Touchstones gave students a real voice in my classroom...The thinking is on them, and in a democratic society, nothing matters more.”

Sharon Thomas, MEd.,
High School ELA Teacher, Cecil County, MD

”



Touchstones®
Discussion Project

schoolprograms@touchstones.org | touchstones.org | 410-604-3309

