

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Scott R. Johnson

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key - Civics Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-065

Scott R. Johnson, who teaches history, law and civics courses at Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key - Civics Oral History project*.

Interview Date & Location:

Date: Dec 11, 2020 Location: Telephonic interview

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:32 / 1.53 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 2, 2021.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Scott Johnson, *Education is Key – Funding*, ECE-A-L-2020-065

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Scott Johnson was born in Palos Heights, Illinois in 1983. He graduated from Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago in 2001. He earned a BS degree from Illinois State University in History Education in 2005 and an MA degree in Teaching Leadership from Lamar University (Beaumont, Texas) in 2015. Scott worked a year and half for Catapult Learning assigned to Brother Rich High School then worked at Thornridge High School in Dolton, Illinois beginning in 2007. While there, Scott has taught American law, civics/government, reading, economics, and sociology. He served as a co-chair of the District Civics Curriculum Team, a member of the Google Pilot team, and worked in Thornridge's After School Program. Scott also has presented at conferences on using technology in the classroom.

Scott reviews how civics was restored as a required semester Senior level course following state legislation in 2017. He discussed the semester course content, the implementation of service-learning projects (Soapbox), and examples of controversial subject discussed in class. He explained how teaching media literacy included identifying bias and opinion. Johnson also talked about the school's relationship with the elementary school districts feeding into the district's high schools and with Thornridge in particular. Other topics include the changes made due to new state social studies standards and the demographics of the high school student population. He also looks at the remote learning model adapted from March 2020 through March 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and its impact on civics classes, specifically content, challenges in teaching and learning, access to training, equipment, and internet, and the grading of student work.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Thornridge High School, Dolton, IL; Thornton Township High School District #205; civics instruction in Illinois; teaching controversial topics; service-learning projects; remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic; Illinois's post 2017 Social Science Standards; media literacy;

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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