



AP African American Studies

Textbook Adoption

Dr. Alicen Brown and Jason Bennett

Agenda

- 1. Introduction of the textbook adoption committee**
- 2. Review of textbook adoption process**
- 3. Recommendation and rationale**
- 4. Anticipated cost**
- 5. Next steps**
- 6. Q & A**

The Committee



Timothy Johnson

CHS Teacher, current
CCS African American
History Teacher



Rachel Carlton

CHS Teacher, former
African American
History Teacher
(Orange County Public
Schools)



Matthew Deegan

CHS Department
Chair of History & SS



Joseph Patterson

CHS Instructional
Coach



Jason Bennett

CHS Supervising
Administrator of
History & SS



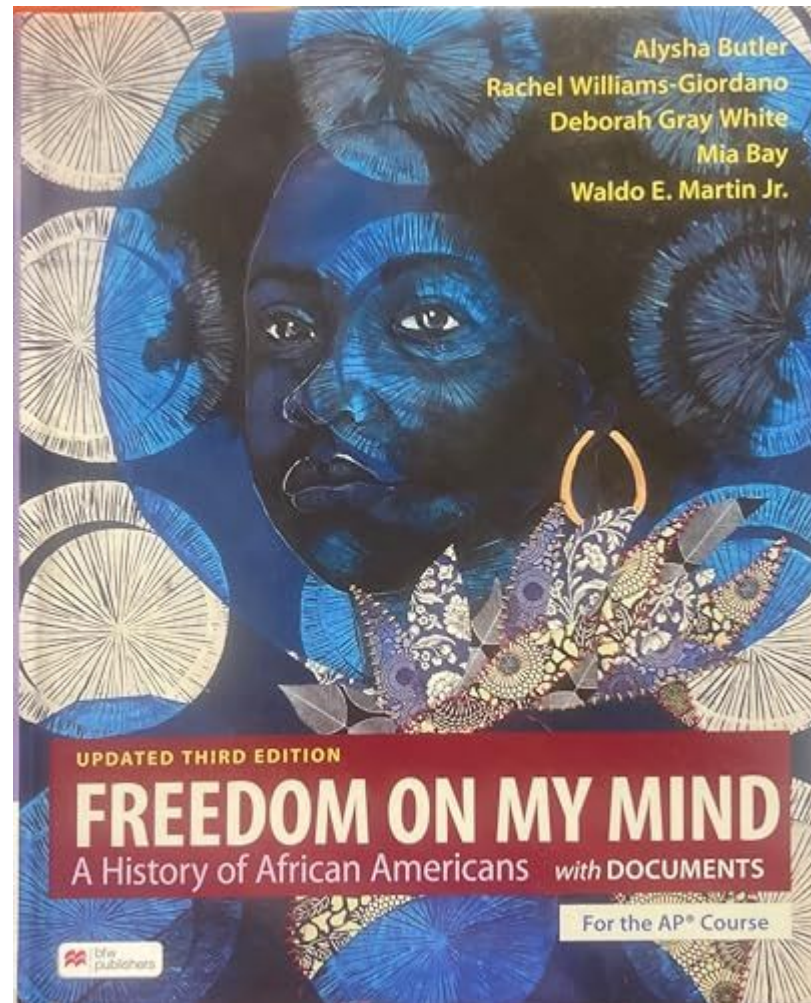
Dr. Alicen

CCS **Brown** Director of
History & SS

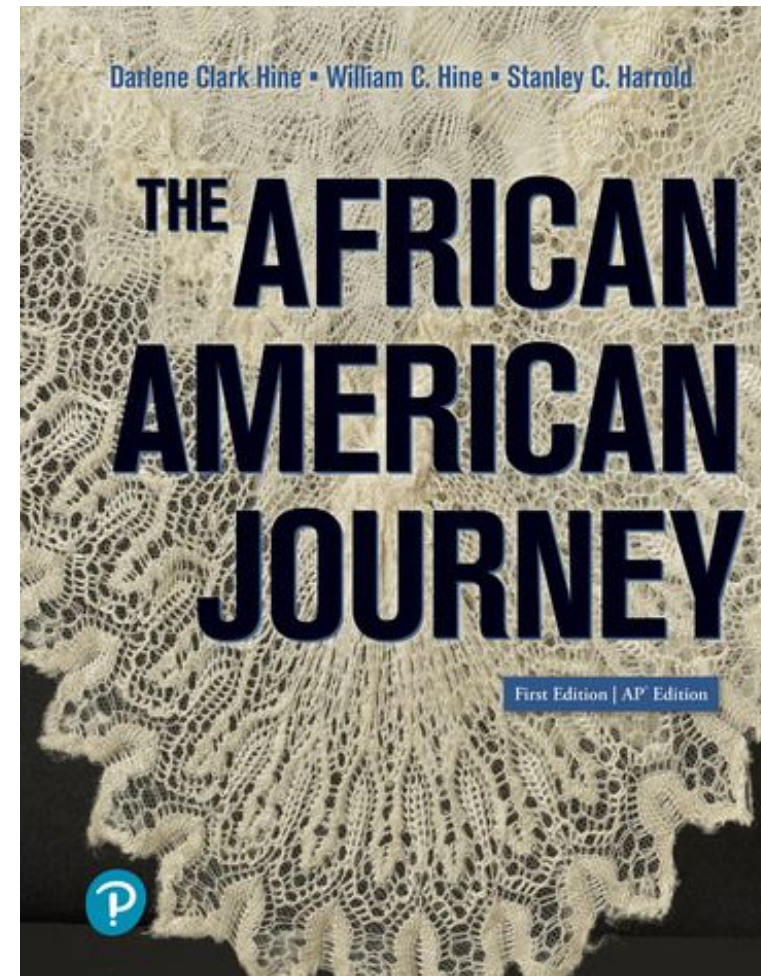
The Process

- **Summer- Fall 2025: *Course Added***
 - AP African American Studies was added to the Program of Study and approved at the January 2026 school board meeting.
- **Winter 2026: *Textbook Samples Requested***
 - Coordinator requested samples from publishers listed on College Board's website for review.
- **March- April 2026: *Committee Evaluation of Textbooks***
 - Committee used the VDOE rubric to evaluate 3 textbooks from College Board's list and decided official recommendation for adoption.

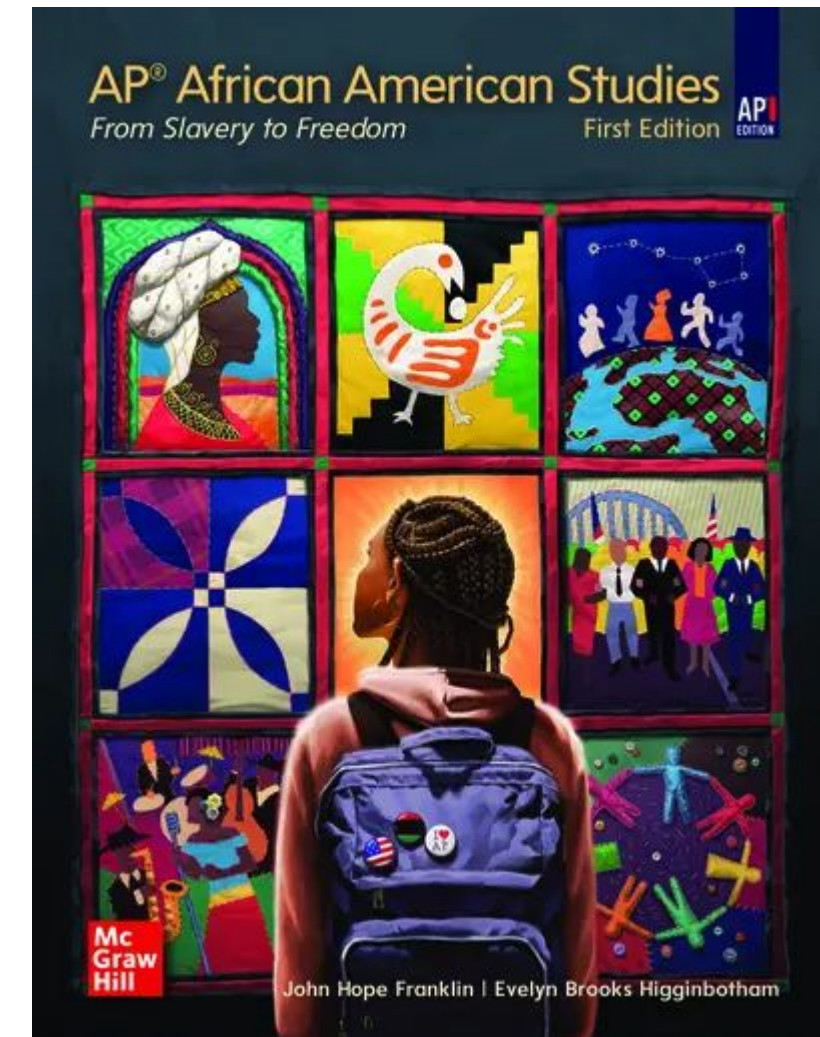
The Textbooks Reviewed:



Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans with documents for the AP course (Butler et al., 2025)



The African American journey (AP edition) (Clark Hine, D., Hine, W.C., and Harrold S.C, 2026)



AP African American studies: From slavery to freedom (Franklin, J.H & Brooks Higginbotham, E., 2026)

VDOE Textbook Evaluation Tool:

9 Criteria :

1. Alignment with standards
2. Textbook organization
3. Textbook formatting
4. Writing style and appropriate language
5. information sources included
6. Integration of skills and concepts
7. Lack of bias and stereotyping
8. Diverse perspectives and representation
9. Digital Considerations

Each Criterion receives a **A (adequate)**, **L (limited)**, or **N (No evidence)**

1. Tool can be found [HERE](#). (Tool is attachment B on Jan 15, 2018 VBOE meeting Agenda)

Evaluation Criteria Used by Textbook Review Committee

Section I: Correlation with the Standards of Learning

Determine the degree to which content found in these textbooks is correlated with the Standards of Learning and the Curriculum Framework for this subject.		
Adequate A	Limited L (Note: Provide examples to support this rating.)	No Evidence N (Note: Provide examples to support this rating.)
Lessons are aligned with the standards.	Limited connections between the standards and the lessons are noted.	No correlation between the standards and the lessons.
Content appears accurate, clear, and in sequential order.	Content appears to contain some inaccuracies or is not always clear.	A logical sequence of content cannot be identified and/or there appear to be significant content inaccuracies.
Most of the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills are supported.	Essential understandings, knowledge, or skills are not sufficiently addressed.	Essential understandings, knowledge, or skills are not addressed.
Many opportunities are provided for students to practice essential skills.	There is limited opportunity for students to practice essential skills.	Opportunities to practice essential skills are not included.
Comments or concerns related to content accuracy, bias, or editing:		

VDOE Textbook Evaluation Tool:

When we quantified committee scores, we assigned the following numerical equivalents to each indicator:

- A= 2
- L= 1
- N=0

Here are the scores for each textbook:

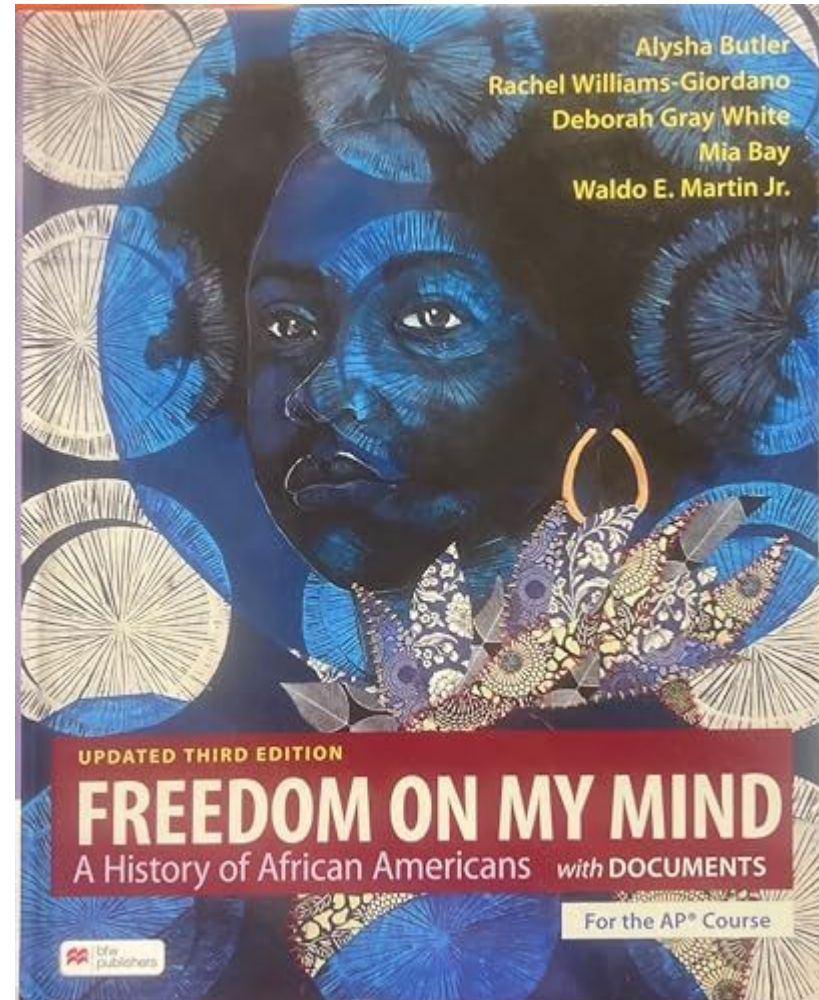
- Freedom on my mind (Butler et al., 2025): **108 (perfect score)**
- AP African American studies(Franklin, J.H & Brooks Higginbotham, E., 2026):**96**
- The African American journey (AP edition) (Clark Hine, D., Hine, W.C., and Harrold S.C, 2026):**77**

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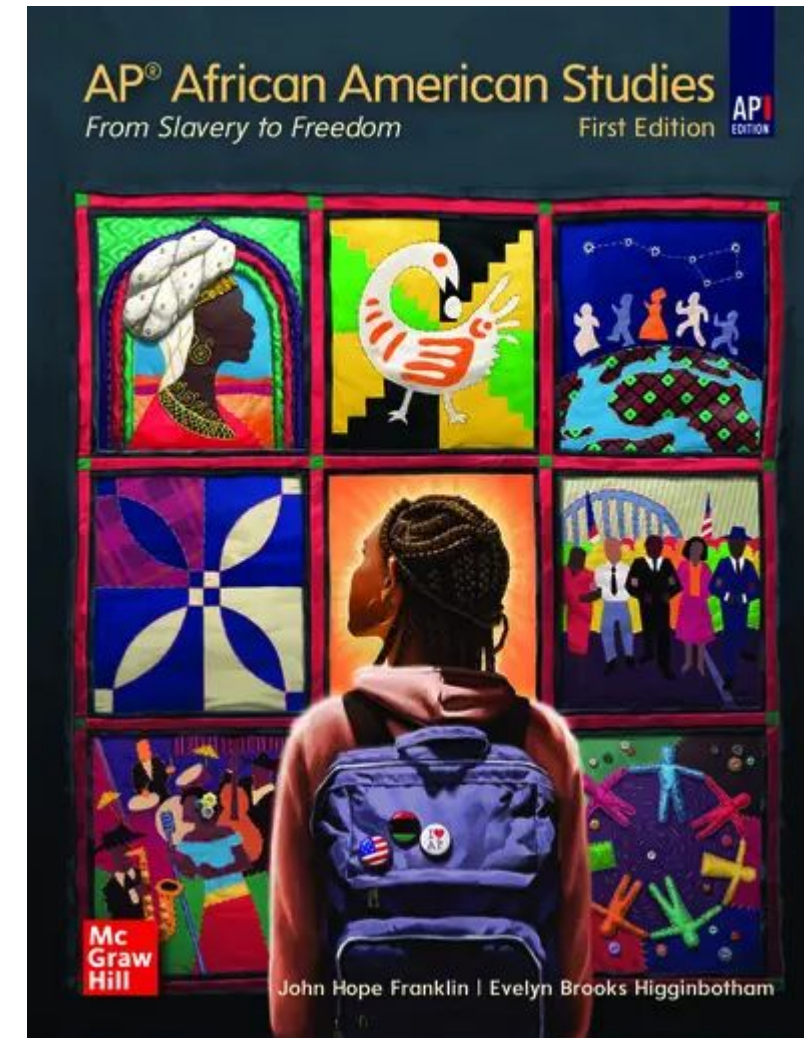
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The Textbook Finalists:



Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans with documents for the AP Course (Butler et al., 2025)

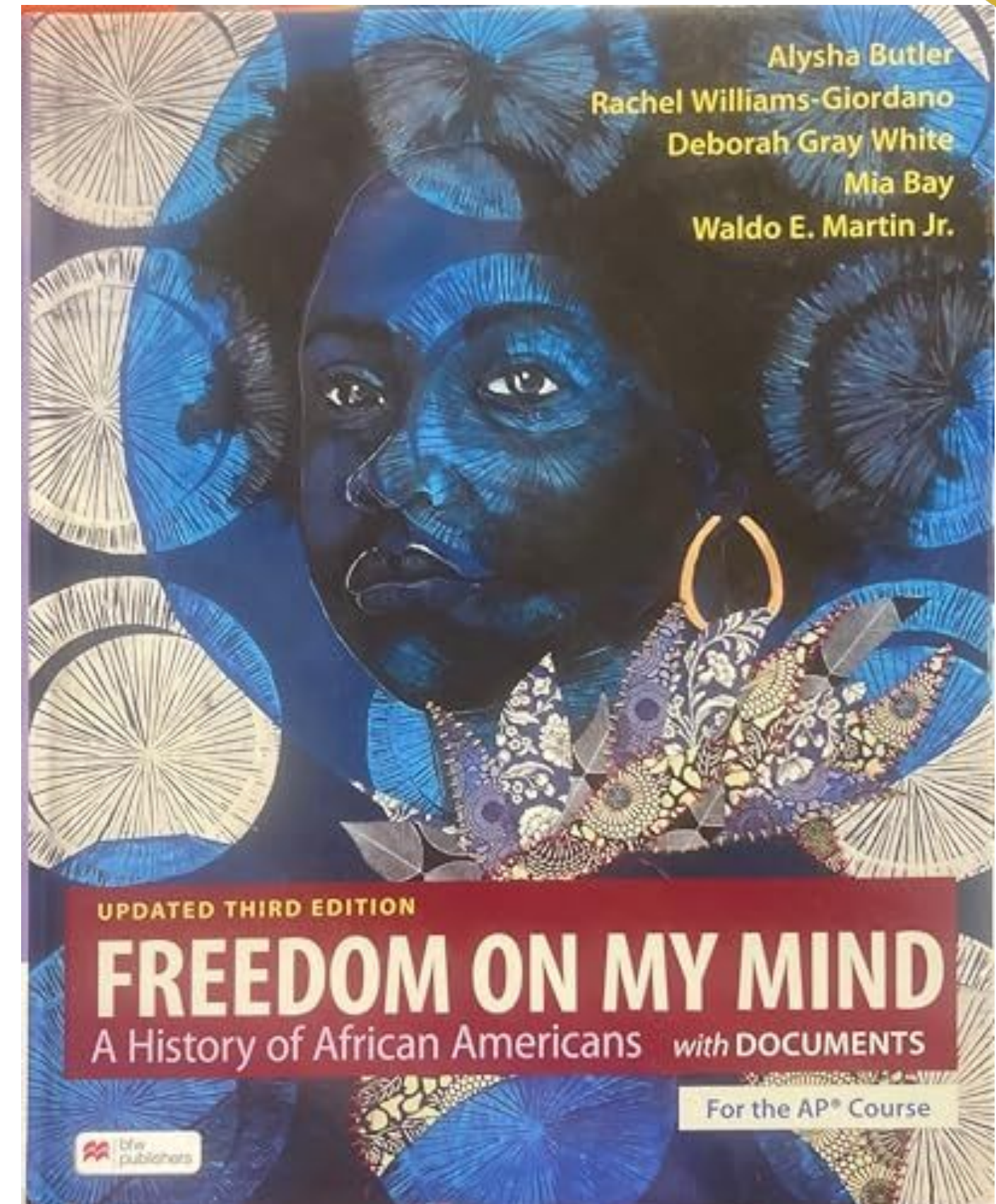


AP African American studies: From slavery to freedom (Franklin, J.H & Brooks Higginbotham, E., 2026)

Recommendation

We recommend that the division
adopt and purchase:

- ***Freedom on my mind: A history of African Americans with documents for the AP Course*** (Butler et al., updated 3rd edition, 2025)



Rationale

- Strongly aligned with College Board curriculum and examination.
- Received the highest score of all reviewed textbooks from all committee members, especially regarding student accessibility and overall usability.
 - It was the **only reviewed textbook that received A's (Adequate)** in every category from every committee member.
- Offers a wide range of diverse perspectives both in content and authorship.
- Offers a variety of supplemental materials for both teachers and students to help prepare them for success on the AP exam.

Rationale Continued...

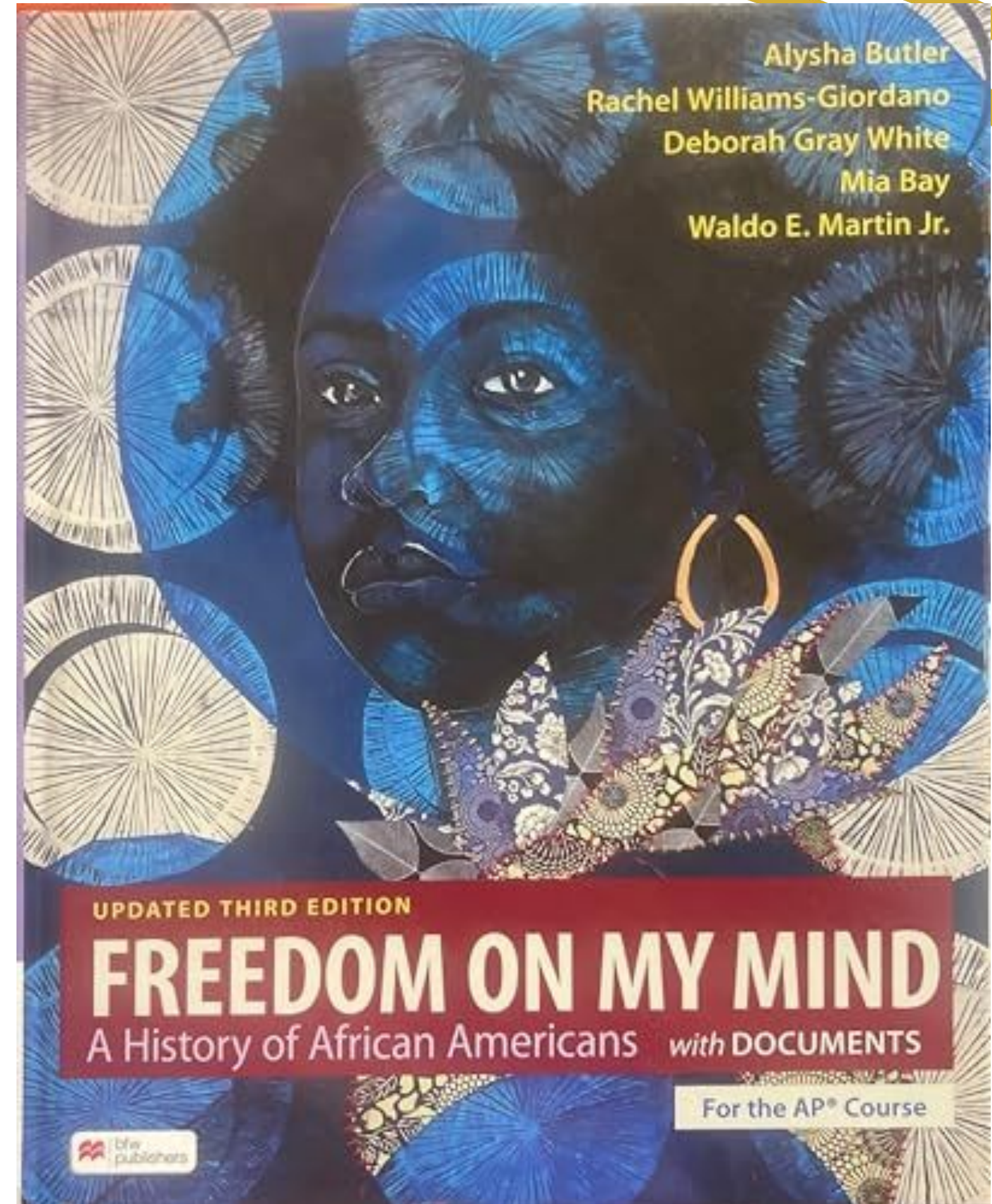
- Many school divisions in the country and in the state of Virginia already use this text (or an earlier edition of this text)
- **Districts in Virginia include:**
 - Alexandria
 - Arlington
 - Caroline
 - Danville
 - Fairfax
 - Henrico
 - Hampton
 - Manassas
 - Norfolk
 - Prince William
 - Roanoke City
 - Spotsylvania
 - Williamsburg
 - York County

Quotes From Other Districts:

- *“Freedom on My Mind is an excellent resource for AP AAS because it provides students with opportunities to interact with primary and secondary sources to gain a broad perspective into African American Studies. The book also includes AP practice questions and is fully aligned to the course. The teacher's edition is also great because it provides suggestions for classroom enrichment and student engagement.” - **Dr. Karen Wallace (Manassas City Public Schools Teacher)***
- *“Freedom on my Mind is essential for AP AAS because it directly aligns with the College Board standards. My first year teaching this course, we had no textbook and it was difficult to assign students enriching texts that supplement the work we were doing in class. With the textbook, I have been able to easily assign texts and choose activities that directly align with the class. The textbook provides questions, DBQs, projects, ready to use assignments and best practices for teachers to implement in the classroom. Without Freedom on my Mind I don't think I would have successfully taught AP AAS this school year. It is imperative to have for this course.” - **Kasi Farmer (Henrico County Public Schools Teacher)***

Anticipated Cost

- CHS anticipates having two sections of this course for a max of **50 enrolled students**.
- The quote for 50 student edition textbooks, 2 teacher edition manuals, and their online hub of teacher resources for the course for both teachers is **\$7,638.91**



Next Steps

- **May 2026: *Initial School Board Discussion***
 - Adoption committee's official recommendation is given to the School Board for approval
- **May 2026: *Community Review***
 - Committee's recommended textbook is shared with public for public comment.
 - Second choice textbook is also shared for public comment
- **June 2026: *School Board Approval and Purchase***
 - If approved by school board, CHS moves forward with adoption of textbook and the purchase order for the 2026-2027 school year.

Thank You

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