 Movements and Debates

TOPIC 4.24, 4 OPTIONS
Contemporary Issues and Debates

Topic Overview
Throughout their history in the United States, people of African descent have held various perspectives on the issues their communities faced and have designed multiple strategies for achieving societal change. This remains true for contemporary issues and debates. African American communities are not a monolith. The field of African American studies creates space for respectful debate and arguments informed by research and evidence, as even those with shared goals, such as achieving greater equity and inclusion for communities that have been and remain marginalized, maintain diverse and conflicting opinions.

In Topic 4.24, students should select one of the four topics below and engage in further reading and discussion to understand the origins and diverse perspectives of a contemporary issue or debate.

- **Option 1**  Medicine, Technology, and the Environment
- **Option 2**  Incarceration, Abolition, and the New Jim Crow
- **Option 3**  Reparations
- **Option 4**  The Movement for Black Lives

For each topic option, the framework articulates:

- **Starting Points**: sources for student investigation
- **Explore**: a suggested learning objective or line of inquiry
- **Possible Focus Areas**: key developments, issues, and perspectives to build deep understanding of the topic