



Weekly Discussion Questions 1/27/2025

[Camden, Jim. "Is America in a Golden Age, and If So How Will We Know?" *The Spokesman-Review*, 27 Jan. 2025](#)

Classroom Discussion Question College Level

Defining Golden Ages: The article explores various historical "golden ages" and the complexities within them. How should a "golden age" be defined, and to what extent does the term reflect subjective interpretations rather than objective realities?

Contemporary Analysis: Given the author's argument that golden ages are typically identified retrospectively, is it possible to recognize or declare a "golden age" in the present? What social, economic, or cultural indicators would be necessary to support such a claim?

Critical Historical Perspectives: The article highlights the uneven benefits of "golden ages," with some groups flourishing while others face oppression or hardship. How can examining these disparities provide a more nuanced understanding of historical narratives, and why is this critical in studying history?

Classroom Discussion Question Grades 9-12

Evaluating Golden Ages: The article discusses various historical "golden ages" and their complexities. How should we define a "golden age," and why do these periods often include significant challenges or injustices alongside achievements?

Modern Reflections: The author suggests that golden ages are usually identified in hindsight. Do you think it is possible to declare a "golden age" while living in it? What indicators would you use to make that judgment today?

Historical Narratives: The article highlights different perspectives on golden ages, such as benefits for certain groups versus struggles for others. How can examining multiple viewpoints help us understand the true nature of historical periods labeled as "golden ages"? Provide examples to support your answer

Classroom Discussion Question Grades 6-8

Understanding Golden Ages: The article talks about different "golden ages" in history. What do you think makes a time period a "golden age," and why might some people have a harder time during those times?

Thinking About Today: The writer says it's usually easier to call something a "golden age" after it's over. Do you think we can decide if we are living in a "golden age" right now? What things would you look for to decide?

Seeing Different Sides of History: The article shows that "golden ages" were great for some people but not for others. Why is it important to think about how different groups of people experienced the same time in history? Can you give an example

Classroom Discussion Question Grades 1-5

What is a Golden Age? The article talks about special times in history called "golden ages." What do you think makes a time great, and why might it not be great for everyone?

Are We in a Golden Age? The writer says people usually decide a time was a "golden age" after it's over. Do you think today could be a golden age? What makes today special to you?

Different Experiences in History: The article says golden ages were good for some people but not for others. Why is it important to think about how everyone felt during those times? Can you think of a story or time when people had different experiences?