

INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD EDITION

We felt compelled to update *Breaking Away from the Textbook* after experiencing the trauma of September 11, 2001. The events of that day changed us forever. They touched the lives of every American and forced us to face our vulnerability as individuals and as a nation. We hope that students who lived through this time, and those who will learn about it later, will understand its importance as the beginning of a new era in U.S. history.

This third edition includes additions to a number of chapters to make them relevant to today's world and to our students. We added two chapters: one chapter that focuses on the key events that the United States dealt with as the twentieth century drew to its conclusion, and another chapter that touches on an array of topics and issues facing us in the twenty-first century. Teachers will also be pleased to note that we have included material and activities on literacy and the writing process. As with our other editions, teachers should feel free to integrate resources and technology available in their classrooms as they adapt the material to the needs of their students.

