

Curriculum, Lessons & Resources

Stanford History Education Groups: Reading Like a Historian

The Reading Like a Historian curriculum engages students in historical inquiry. Each lesson revolves around a central historical question and features sets of primary documents modified for groups of students with diverse reading skills and abilities. I was lucky enough to be one of the test classrooms for the pilot program in 2008-2009. This program has revolutionized my teaching of history!

The Green Ambassadors

This curriculum is a project of the Environmental Charter High School (<http://www.echsonline.org/>) and is what we have been using to begin the Green Academy at Lincoln High School. Amazing and well thought out resources on teaching sustainability.

The California Council on Economic Education

Several years ago I attended a training led by Jim Charkins the CCEE Executive Director and Professor of Economics at California State University, San Bernardino. The binder I was given based on the CCEE's 9 principles of education I was given is now the basis of my economics curriculum.

Additional lessons for economics can also be found at: <http://www.fte.org/teacher-resources/lesson-plans/> and <http://www.councilforeconed.org/>.

The Redistricting Game

Redistricting as always been a somewhat dull but necessary topic to teach to my AP US Politics students. This game was a hit and the kids really learned the topic! Kids told me they went home and tried beating the highest levels without gerrymandering. The Redistricting Game was created at the USC Game Innovation Lab - part of the USC School of Cinematic Arts', Interactive Media Division.

Election a US President in Plain English

By the far the most concise and best explanation I have found for teaching the Electoral College.

C-Span Classroom

This website has recently been updated and improved based on feedback from teachers. Short video clips on current topics in government provide nice introductions for class discussions.

Tag crowd

This website takes the written word and makes it visual. I have loaded famous historical speeches and brought them alive graphically for my students.

Many Eyes

Fascinating collection of visuals that is constantly being updated. Perfect for power point presentations.

iCue

An excellent resource for Government class it links current events with basic foundation of government topics. The videos are easy to load and short enough to keep student's attention.

Picturing America

I attended a Picturing America conference at the Newberry Library in Chicago and as a result starting using their images in my US History class. I designed lessons with an art teacher based on the images in the collection. The descriptions and historical content for each image provide excellent background knowledge for the teacher.

New York High School Regents Exam

The New York state exams in social studies combine not only multiple choice but a writing section that revolves around the use of primary sources. I use many of the test questions from these exams in my own class as an assessment or a practice assessment.

Donors Choose

I can't say enough about this website and this organization. Not only I have been given amazing supplies for my classroom (bean bags, computers, tables, books) but it has taught my students a lesson about the generosity of strangers.

Buck Institute for Education

All lessons presented by the Buck Institute are based on the project based learning methodology. I have used the economics and government lesson with great results. You must register to access the lessons but they are free once you do that.

Teachers Curriculum Institute (TCI)

TCI is a simulation based curriculum for social studies that relies on investigation and hands on learning. I have been using the US history, economics and US government lessons.