

Best Practices in Social Studies Rubric

The following rubric is a tool for classroom teachers, instructional coaches, or building administrators to use in assessing how closely their (own, department, or building) practice aligns with research-supported best practices in social studies instruction and assessment. One potential use of the rubric is to determine where a teacher is currently positioned in relation to exhibiting best practices in social studies education in order to track an individual's growth and progress.

Best Practice in Social Studies Education Self Evaluation	Emerging	Integrating	Innovating
<p>1. Effective social studies education rests on the foundation of rich and diverse exposure to social studies content rooted in state standards.</p> <p>(Kenna & Russell, 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Basic content knowledge allows teacher to teach rich and diverse social studies content sporadically. <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely seeks to deepen content knowledge through professional development and continuing education. <input type="checkbox"/> Does not use state standards to guide curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate content mastery allows teacher to teach rich and diverse social studies content. . <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes seeks to deepen content knowledge through professional development and continuing education. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses state standards to guide curriculum and ensures most students master some standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Deep content mastery allows teacher to effectively teach rich and diverse social studies content on a daily basis. <input type="checkbox"/> Actively seeks to deepen content knowledge through professional development and continuing education. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses state standards to guide curriculum and ensures students master each standard.
<p>2. Effective social studies education inspires students to think critically and gives them opportunities to solve problems related to significant human issues. (i.e., inquiry learning, problem-based learning, simulations, project-based learning).</p> <p>(Saye & Brush, 2009, Misco, 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely provides opportunities for students to investigate current and historical questions, scenarios, or problems and helps them develop solutions and communicate conclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes provides opportunities for students to investigate current and historical questions, scenarios, or problems and helps them develop solutions and communicate conclusions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently provides opportunities for students to investigate current and historical questions, scenarios, or problems and helps them develop solutions and communicate conclusions on a daily basis.
<p>3. Effective social studies education is culturally relevant.</p> <p>(Barton, 2008 ; Levstik & Barton, 2008 ; Terzian & Yeager, 2007; Brant, 2013).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely lessons are culturally relevant by incorporating content and examples that reflect student's cultural background as well as those of other cultures. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs rarely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes lessons are culturally relevant and periodically incorporate content and examples that reflect student's cultural background as well as those of other cultures. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs in each unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lessons are culturally relevant by incorporating content and examples that reflect student's cultural background as well as those of other cultures. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs multiple times throughout the unit.

<p>4. Effective social studies education is cross-disciplinary.</p> <p>(Farris, 2015; Sherif, 2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently facilitates connections between social studies and a variety of other content areas by incorporating elements of other curricular disciplines. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs rarely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes facilitates connections between social studies and other content areas by incorporating elements of other curricular disciplines. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs in each unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently facilitates connections between social studies and a variety of other content areas by incorporating elements of other curricular disciplines. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs multiple times throughout the unit.
<p>5. Effective social studies education prepares for local, state, national, and global citizenship.</p> <p>(Rapoport, 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely promotes and models the qualities and characteristics of engaged citizenship in all courses. <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely provides opportunities for students to see how they are members of a global community and how the rights of citizens differ based on geopolitical or national boundaries. (geographic and political systems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes promotes and models the qualities and characteristics of engaged citizenship in all courses. <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes provides opportunities for students to see how they are members of a global community and how the rights of citizens differ based on geopolitical or national boundaries. (geographic and political systems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently promotes and models the qualities and characteristics of engaged citizenship in all courses. <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently provides opportunities for students to see how they are members of a global community and how the rights of citizens differ based on geopolitical or national boundaries. (geographic and political systems)
<p>6. Effective social studies education builds on students' prior knowledge and experiences, making the learning relevant to the world outside of school.</p> <p>(Shapiro, 2004; Misco, 2014).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely evaluates my students' prior knowledge and experiences so learning is real-world relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometime evaluates students' prior knowledge and experiences so learning is real-world relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently evaluates students' prior knowledge and experiences so learning is real-world relevant.

<p>7. Effective social studies education seamlessly incorporates technology into the learning experience.</p> <p>(Okolo, Englert, Bouck, & Heutsche, 2007 ; Saye & Brush 2006; Maddox & Saye, 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely incorporates technology relevant to social studies in lessons and projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of technology is limited to word processing, PowerPoint, and basic internet research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes incorporates technology relevant to social studies in lessons and projects. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of technology is mostly limited to word processing, PowerPoint, and basic internet research, but periodically may include projects such as WebQuests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently incorporates technology relevant to social studies in lessons and projects such as WebQuests, Interactive Maps, and Digital Archives. <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently provides opportunities to share research and draw conclusions.
<p>8. Effective social studies education teaches students to think, read, write, speak and view like scholars in the fields of social studies.</p> <p>(Monte-Sano, 2017; Rubin, 2007)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely encourages students to think, read, write, view, and speak like scholars in social studies fields. <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely uses primary source material beyond the textbook. <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely models how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary source material. <input type="checkbox"/> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes encourages students to think, read, <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes uses primary source material beyond the textbook such as letters, manuscripts, government documents, photographs. <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes models how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary source material as a scholar would. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs in each unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently encourages students to think, read, write, view, and speak like scholars in social studies fields. <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently uses primary source material beyond the textbook such as letters, manuscripts, government documents, photographs, and interviews. <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently models how to analyze and interpret primary and secondary source material as a scholar world. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs multiple times throughout each unit.

<p>9. Effective social studies education assesses student thinking, processing, and problem solving, not just rote memorization.</p> <p>(Breakstone, Smith and Wineburg, 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely assesses students in a variety of ways . <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs in each unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes assesses students in a variety of ways including, short answers, multiple choice, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs in each unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently assesses students in a variety of ways including, but not limited to use of rubrics, DBQ, and drawing conclusions/ justifying solutions through extended writing. <input type="checkbox"/> Occurs multiple times throughout each unit.
<p>10. Effective social studies education is differentiated to meet all student needs.</p> <p>(Zemelman, Daniels, and Hyde, 2005; Williams, 2008; Tomlinson and Souza, 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely differentiates to meet all student needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes differentiates to meet all student needs based on readiness, student interests, and learner profiles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consistently differentiates to meet all student needs based on readiness, student interests, and learner profiles.