

## **Instructional Strategies**

### **Alternative Instructional Frameworks: Problem-, Project-, and Inquiry-based Instruction in Social Studies**

Problem-, Project-, and Inquiry-based instruction in Social Studies are dynamic frameworks that increase intellectual engagement and help foster deep understanding through the development of hands-on, minds-on teaching and learning. Instead of just presenting the basic facts, come learn creative ways to use questions, problem-solving, and scenarios to harness the power of curiosity in your social studies class.

### **Get the Sage Off the Stage: Improving Student Engagement in the Social Studies Classroom**

Insanity by Albert Einstein's definition is "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Sometimes the smallest changes can make a big difference. Experience engaging, student-centered strategies, such as historical dilemmas, structured discussion, and effective use of multimedia, that promote a high level of participation. Learn strategies and classroom management tools to amplify the relevancy of social studies through stimulating activities that will help get the sage, the teacher, off the stage.

### **Historical Inquiry Labs: Thinking Like an Amateur Historian**

Historical Inquiry Labs use primary and secondary sources to promote literacy and critical thinking skills, and encourage thoughtful discussion and critical writing through historical investigations. Learn how to create TEKS-based historical inquiry labs that compel students to assume the role of historians, actively investigate the past, and answer historical questions by developing evidence-based answers. This session provides teachers with tools to help students to become practicing historians by teaching them chronological thinking, historical comprehension, historical analysis and interpretation, and historical research.

### **Same History, New Tech Tools: Technology Tools in the Social Studies Classroom**

Effective technology integration is possible despite the dramatic differences in resources and abilities from classroom to classroom, school to school, and district to district. It is possible for all social studies teachers to integrate technology tools in ways that can impact engagement and learning for all students. Come experience effective strategies for technology integration in the social studies class including, but not limited to: online learning, game-based learning, learning with hand-held devices, web-based explorations, student-created media, interactive whiteboards, and collaborative online tools.

### **Same History Newer Tech Tools**

Enriching Your Technology Toolbox: One of the most engaging experiences we can provide our students is to integrate technology tools with the learning of social studies concepts. With the overwhelming number of tech tools available, how can teachers decide which technology tools will enhance instruction and ensure that students learn the appropriate social studies skills? In this session, teachers will learn to use newer technology tools in the social studies classroom, and become more cognizant of how these tools meet the needs of their students.

### **Successful Cooperative Learning in the Social Studies Classroom**

Cooperative learning is more than just putting students together in a group. Explore the foundation for effective implementation of a collaborative social studies classroom through the use of cooperative learning principals. Experience practical procedures for using cooperative groups, conceptual structures to guide the planning of cooperative groups, the teacher's role in implementing cooperative structures, and the basic elements that define and make cooperative learning groups successful in a social studies classroom.

**Warm Up to Social Studies: Grade 8 to Go**

Explore portable social studies activities to review, remediate or accelerate concepts based on the Grade 8 Social Studies TEKS. In this session, participants will experience student-centered engagement and critical thinking activities from Warm up To Social Studies Grade 8 Parts One and Two, and receive materials to create a set of materials used in the session.