

Newsela Social Studies logic model



Problem/Need: With the increase of legislation geared toward social studies instruction, understanding the aims, goals, and impact of Newsela Social Studies becomes paramount. Holistically, Newsela Social Studies helps students think like historians, political scientists, economists, and geographers. Students engage with content that contextualizes the past, promotes inquiry, and is filled with multiple and diverse perspectives. Teachers build lessons from standards-aligned resources and an extensive library of content that is both relevant and accessible to students.

Input

Newsela provides...

- An extensive library of standards-aligned, authentic content from diverse viewpoints; including leveled primary sources, speeches, biographies, multimedia, and current events
- Sequenced content that complements core materials
- Teacher guidance for implementing effective knowledge, inquiry, and skills-based lessons

Activities

Teachers will...

- · Design and enact content-based lessons
- Engage students in the study of multiple perspectives, highlighting marginalized narratives, and supporting inquiry
- Incorporate current events to contextualize lessons, connecting past and present
- Adjust the level of texts and scaffold student learning as they engage in inquiry
- Embed integrated scaffolds and supports that build students' disciplinary literacy skills

Outputs

Teachers will gain an increased ability to...

- Elevate diverse and multiple perspectives
- Provide space for authentic inquiry
- · Teach from a multi-causal lens
- Respond to current events and facilitate conversations that include all students
- Lead students in opportunities to take informed action

Students will gain...

- Skills to contextualize historical events through a real-world lens
- An understanding of how contemporary issues impact them
- An understanding of social studies from a multi-causal lens
- Increased ability to cite, source, and evaluate content information
- Skills to craft arguments and corroborate information/claims
- Skills to think critically and engage in intellectually challenging tasks
- Increased understanding and ability to apply content knowledge
- Social studies content-area skills and literacies

Outcomes

Academic Performance

 Students will demonstrate content knowledge proficiency and an increased understanding of relevant current events

Perceived Relevance

 Students will perceive the content they are studying as relevant and meaningful to their lived experiences

Application of Disciplinary Skills

 Students are able to select and apply disciplinespecific concepts and skills. (e.g. causality, spatial reasoning, sourcing, contextualization)

Authentic Inquiry

 Students will be able to engage with real-world problems, think critically, and build an understanding through sourcing, perspective taking, and the contextualization process.

Increased Self-Efficacy

 Students develop and possess a belief that they can do social studies and become more motivated to learn and participate

Bolstered Literacy-Related Skills

 Students literacy-related skills are strengthened through the study of social studies (e.g. citing textual evidence, cause and effect, etc)

Students will...

- Engage with relevant content, authentic resources, and primary sources
- · Engage in authentic inquiry
- Generate a variety of questions, make inferences, and determine the types of sources that support answers to questions
- · Discuss real-world, contemporary issues
- Contextualize subject matter content
- Evaluate concepts from alternative points of view using evidence from sources
- Build arguments and support claim-based reasoning
- Develop interdisciplinary skills, like analyzing sources, making claims, and understanding cause and effect