

# *Practical Strategies and Methods to Engage Students in Social Studies*

- Reading and Writing
  - Anticipation Guides
  - Collins Writing
    - Type 1 – Focused Free Write
    - Type 2 – Content Writing – Quiz
    - Type 3 – One Draft, Self-Editing, Focus Correction Areas
    - Type 4 – Two Drafts, Peer Editing, Focus Correction Areas
    - Type 5 – Publishable Work
  - Textbook Previews
  - Literary Connections
    - Book in a Day
    - Great Books
  - GIST
  - No Research Papers
  - Power Writing
  - Guided Reading
  - Children’s Literature
  - KWL Charts
  - 4 Column Notes – Direct Reading-Thinking Activity
  - 2 Column Notes
  - Personal Letters / Journals
  - \*Research and Writing Style Manual
  - Advertisements
  - Cartoon Strips
  - Book, CD, or Magazine Covers
  - Caricatures
  - Eulogies
  - Metaphorical Representations - Analogies
  - Mind Notes
  - Perspective Pieces (Presentism and Historiography)
  - Postcards
  - Posters
  - INSERT – Interactive Notating System
  - ReQuest – “Stump the Teacher”
  - Stop Reading, Predict What Happens Next
  - PreP (Pre-Reading Plan)
  - Paired Reading
  - Formula Writing
  - Hunt for Main Ideas
  - Cubing

- Cinquains
- Mnemonics
- Resumes
- Brochures
- Dialogues
- Position Statements
  
- Projects
  - Projects as the instruction
  - Projects as an assessment
  - Projects as a reteaching tool
  - Examples / Ideas:
    - Visual Metaphors / Similes
    - Biography Journals
    - No Research Mini-Presentations
    - Museums
    - Virtual Field Trips / Web-quests
    - Interviews with ...
    - Children Historical Fiction Books
    - Pop-up Books
    - Scavenger Hunts
    - Special Edition – Unit Newspapers
  
- Vocabulary Acquisition
  - Word Walls
  - Magic Squares
  - Word Splashes / Possible Sentences
  - Definition Stations
  - Pictowords
  - Jeopardy
  - Bingo
  - Hartwell Vocabulary Game
  - Flip Charts
  - Acrostics
  - Vocabulary Songs
  
  - Visual Diagrams, Charts and Schematics
  - Flow Charts
  - Fishbone Charts
  - Mind-maps, Concept Trees, Spoke Diagrams, and Webbing
  - Board Games
  - Multi-tiered Timelines
  - Illustrated Timelines
  - Information Matrices
  - Annotated Illustrations

- Mosaics
- Collages
- Report Cards
- Spectrums
- T-Charts
- Venn Diagrams
- Discussion
  - Inquiry-based Discussion
  - Educational Discourse
  - Socratic Method / Logic
  - Newspaper Round Table
  - Response Groups
  - Storytelling
  - Bartering
  - Negotiations and Settlements
  - Myths and Legends
  - Quotations
- Homework Kids will do
- Interactive Notebooks
- Primary Resources and Artifacts
  - Documents
  - Photos
  - Political Cartoons
  - Archeology
  - Historical Preservation
  - Social Studies CSI – History Detectives
- Geography
  - Mapping the World by Heart
- Fairs and Festivals
- Learning Stations
- Simulations and Role Playing
  - Mock Trials
  - Skits
  - Plays
- Practicing for the Test
  - PQR2ST
  - Beach ball toss

- Field Experiences / Work
  - Virtual Field Trips
  - Actual Field Trips
- Technological Social Studies
- Establishing a Classroom System
  - Classroom Organization
    - Desk Olympics
    - Desk Configurations
    - Word Walls and Message Boards
    - Art Supplies
    - Student Work Displays
    - Classroom Libraries
    - Learning / Work Centers
    - Make-up Files
  - Classroom Rules
    - Common School or Team Rules and Consequences
    - Teacher Expectations
    - Cooperative Learning Rules
    - Dismissal / Clean-up Routine (make the janitor your friend)
  - Classroom Communications
    - Message Boards
      - Homework
      - Daily Activities (Team boards are powerful)
      - Daily Benchmarks and Indicators
      - Safety Directions / Warnings
    - Classroom Newsletter / Web page
    - Business Cards and Refrigerator Magnets
  - Introduction Activities and Bookkeeping
  - Assessment
    - Grading System
      - Percentages (District Conversion Table)
      - Points
      - Rubrics and Evaluation (Brag) Sheets
      - Guskey and Canady Suggestions
    - Focused and Timely Feedback
    - State Test Format