

## Sample Social Studies Lessons

**Directions: Reflect on each lesson/unit and determine if 21st century skills are present, if so identify which ones and how.**

### **Grade Level 9 (Global History): Operation Create a Children's Book**

For their unit on the Middle Ages, students are asked to create a children's book for elementary students that blends historical fact with fictional characters. Since this is an interdisciplinary project, students participate in 2 mini-lectures in Social Studies where they are introduced to fundamental concepts, terms, and people of the Middle Ages. After mini-lectures, students meet in groups of 3-4 to research the Middle Ages in further depth using the school media center and computer, focusing on a topic or multiple topics of their choice. Students report to the class at the end of every work session on their progress. In addition, once a rough draft is produced, the students in collaboration with their teachers edit and revise the children's books assuring that it follows the standard conventions of the English Language and that the historical references are correct. Upon finishing the revisions, students begin the illustration process either by creating computer generated images or drawing their own. The final part of the project is their presentation. Students visit a local elementary school and visit multiple classrooms in which they are expected to, as a group: introduce themselves & the context of the story, read the story & engage in a post-book discussion or activity with the students.

### **Grade Level: Senior High: Holocaust Elective**

Students are asked to research a modern-day genocide in groups (each group must focus on a different genocide) and develop a service learning project that educates and encourages involvement of community members in taking action against genocide. Students have 8 weeks to research, design, and carry out the project.

### **Grade Level 11 (US History): Through the Years Interview Project**

For their unit on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century United States history, students are asked to partake in a 3-part semester long project. The first part of the project requires students to choose 5 events, trends, or people of the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century and for each one write a brief summary, cite the sources in MLA style, and then interview an individual from the community (teacher, friend, relative, businessman) on the event and provide a written transcript. Assignments are to be submitted using GoogleDocs. Next, the teacher shares via GoogleDocs ([docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)) with the students the entire class' interviews, groups the students, and gives each group a decade. Groups are to create a PowerPoint that represents the essence of the decade using multimedia (sound clips, videos, etc.), quotes from interviewees, and some sort of representation on why the event is significant or important to US History. Meanwhile, there are 2 class leaders that are responsible for overseeing the progress of groups and when Part 2 is completed, the group leaders merge all the PowerPoints and creates a final, edited version, complete with music that reviews the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. The project is then presented to the entire class, administration, and community members.

### **Grade Level 8 (US History)**

Students are given 15 questions on the Industrial Revolution in America and a computer with internet access. They are asked to answer the 15 questions, participate in a class discussion, and turn in the questions for a grade.