



Social Studies Newsletter

August 2020

[Facing History and Ourselves Building Community Back to School Resources](#)

Upcoming Trainings, Webinars, and Events

- Aug. 1—[Meet the VOTE Online Text](#)
- Aug. 5-7—[OER Virtual Conference](#)
- Aug. 12—[Why BMW Went to South Carolina and the Effects of the Coronavirus](#)
- Aug. 13—[Economics in the News: Part 1](#)
- Aug. 15—[Economics of Pandemics](#)
- Aug. 15—[Part 1: Middle School Economics and Personal Finance](#)
- Aug. 22—[ACEE High School Economics Curriculum](#)
- Aug. 22—[Financial Fitness for Life: Grades 3-5](#)
- Aug. 25—[Tech Tools for Teaching Economics: Part 1](#)
- Aug. 25—[Part 1: Integrating Economics and Personal Finance in Elementary Instruction](#)
- Aug. 27—[Documents and Debates: Political Parties and Campaigns](#)
- Sept. 5—[Part 2: Middle School Economics and Personal Finance](#)
- Sept. 12—[Using the Video Game Industry to Teach Economics and Personal Finance](#)
- Sept. 12—[VOTE: Health Care](#)
- Oct. 29—[Documents and Debates: Westward Expansion](#)
- Nov. 14—[VOTE: Retirement Security](#)

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! This will definitely be a world of firsts and unknowns. As we may be filled with trepidation and nervousness, we are also eager to see our kids and create that something special that happens in a classroom. Where ever you may be working, create an orderly place that includes items you will need and items that make you comfortable. Here are [10 tips](#) that make taking school online a little easier.

1. Know your audiences—Bridge the distance with your kids by getting to know them. Focus on the personal at first rather than content and use whatever means best to create that connection. Use mood meters, emoji emoticons, or pictures.
2. Define tech—Don't reinvent the wheel. Use what you have and don't be distracted by the latest shiny object. Take your time to try new tech and then only item at a time.
3. Plan time-based phases—Plan short activities that are both synchronous and asynchronous that you can plug in where they fit best.
4. Soften the ground—Use different modes of communicating and find the one or ones that work best for you, your students and parents.
5. Provide checklists—Simple lists can help both parents and students with items to do.
6. Train—Take the time to train students and parents on the tools and expectations. This is new for them too.
7. Gather with audio/video frequently—Let your students see and hear you giving instructions.
8. Create simple scenarios and schedules—Keeping it simple will ease students into an online learning environment.
9. Digital support—Make sure to provide digital support for students and parents, but also take advantage of it for you too.
10. Update often—Keeping all involved with updates on the situation is crucial. It is a fine balancing act between too much and not enough information.

OER PROJECT CONFERENCE

Register for this virtual event.
Aug. 5-7
Great speakers, sessions, free resources geared toward world history. All sessions recorded to watch at your leisure.
Click [here](#) to register.

JOIN AZGA

The Arizona Geographic Alliance wants you! Get updates and dozens of lessons for free. Click [here](#) to join.

Creating Classroom Culture

How do you create a sense of culture in your classroom when you haven't seen your students face to face? Here is a tip using primary sources that gives you the most bang for your buck. Start with an image. There are thousands to choose from in the [Library of Congress](#). Find something that you may refer back to in a unit or lesson. Then use one of the [9 Primary Source Icebreakers](#) (such as thought bubbles, missing pieces, symbols, etc.) to have students analyze and discuss what they are looking at. These are great to adapt online and can be used for any grade level. You can also use the Library's great [pre-made guides](#) that help students analyze all sorts of primary sources.

When you have a moment...

[Share My Lesson](#) has some terrific webinars on demand that deal with a variety of issues we are facing today in education. Some of the webinars they offer deal with distance learning and using hybrid models, social and emotional learning, anti-bias and anti-racism topics, plus so much more. These are all on demand, all free (You do need to create a free account.) and can be of great service as you navigate and find what works best for you and your students.

Stay tuned for more updates. [Bookmark this page.](#)

