

Utah Compose Social Studies/Cross-Curricular Prompts

Content Area	Prompt	Grade Level	Genre
Social Studies	<p>Listen and read along to the book, “Martin Luther King and the March on Washington. “ The events in this true story happened 50 years ago. Do you think Dr. King’s dream has come true? Write an essay in which you give your opinion. Be sure to tell what his dream was. Give reasons for your opinion. Use examples from your life or from the lives of people you know.</p> <p><i>Video: Martin Luther King and the March on Washington</i></p>	3	Opinion/Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>If you could make a new law for your city or for the country, what would it be? Write about why this law would be a good idea. Use reasons to explain your opinion.</p>	3	Opinion/Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>If you could make one change in the world, what would it be? Describe the change you would make and explain your reasons for making that change. Then explain what difference this change would make in the world.</p>	3	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>Many people have been called heroes, but what is a hero? Explain what a hero is and what a person must do to become one. Use examples of heroes you know.</p>	4	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>Read the story about Captain Clark and his burning glass. Then rewrite the story as if you were Captain Clark. What would you think when you saw the Indians run away? Would you be afraid to go into their village? How would you feel when you saw how afraid they were? Make your story seem real by using good description.</p> <p><i>PDF - Reading: Captain Clark's Burning Glass</i></p>	4	Narrative Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>After reading and reviewing the stimulus material, decide whether you think William Tell was a hero who was brave or an outlaw who broke the law. Are the Swiss right to honor him as a hero? If so, why? If not, why not? State your opinion and give reasons for it. Support your reasons with facts and details from the reading and from the other stimulus material. You also might want to use examples from your own experience or that of someone you know to support your opinion.</p> <p><i>PDF - Story: The Legend of William Tell</i> <i>PDF - Pictures: William Tell and His Bow</i> <i>Picture: The Statue of William and Walter Tell</i></p>	5	Opinion/Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>Some people think the US should choose a different national anthem because "The Star-Spangled Banner" is so hard to sing. They have suggested using "My Country 'Tis of Thee" or "America, the Beautiful" instead. What do you think? Give reasons for your opinion, using the lyrics to the three songs.</p> <p><i>Lyrics: The Star-Spangled Banner</i> <i>Lyrics: My Country 'Tis of Thee</i> <i>Lyrics: America, the Beautiful</i></p>	5	Opinion/Argumentative

Social Studies	The equator is a very hot place to be, while the North Pole is very, very cold. Write a letter to your parents convincing them that one of these is a better place to visit than the other. Make sure you support your opinion with well-developed reasons.	5	Opinion/Argumentative
Social Studies	Suppose that either a new housing development or a new shopping center will be built in your neighborhood. Which would you prefer? Write a letter to the city council, in which you explain why your opinion is best for the neighborhood. Support your opinion with reasons, facts and examples.	5	Opinion/Argumentative
Social Studies	Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, once said, "Perhaps it is impossible for a person who does no good to do no harm." Consider the meaning of this quote. Write a well-developed essay using your experience or the experience of someone you know to support your interpretation of this statement.	5	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	You have just purchased an entire island. You have decided to completely redo the island as your own country, with you as its leader. What is your country like? Use detailed description to paint a clear picture of your country, its new government and people, and your role as its leader.	5	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	You and your friends would like to plant a garden that will produce fresh food for your school cafeteria. Your teacher likes the idea, but wants you to write a description of the garden, including its location, its size, what will be planted, and how it will be cared for. In your essay, be sure to include specific details as to why you have made the choices you describe.	5	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	What will life be like in 100 years? Think of ways that life might be different or just the same as it is now. Explain the differences, comparing such things as how the houses look, how people travel, or how people dress in the next century.	5	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Read Part 1 and Part 2 of the article about the alphabet. Then, in your own words, explain how the alphabet came into being. You may use facts from the reading. Be sure that your summary fully and accurately explains the origin of the alphabet. Article: How Did We Get the Alphabet?	6	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Have you ever thought about who pays for archeological digs? The answer includes state and national governments, museums, private organizations, and even individuals. Read and explore the website "Mysteries of Catalhoyuk!" Consider whether the knowledge gained from archeological digs is worthwhile. Should every ancient city, society, or civilization be explored? If so, why? If not, why not? Write an essay for your social studies teacher in which you argue this issue. Use ideas, concepts, and information from the website and other credible sources to support your claim. Website: Mysteries of Catalhoyuk!	6	Argumentative
Social Studies	Describe and explain the things about the community where you live that would make it a good place to visit. Be sure to develop your response fully.	6	Informative/Explanatory

<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Attached are articles, a video and some photos having to do with Mongolia. After exploring these materials, write a narrative about a young person living in Mongolia. You may choose to write it in first person or third person. You must include facts and details from at least three of the stimulus materials to make your story, setting, and characters realistic.</p> <p>Webpage: Mongolia Photos: Mongolia Photos Webpage: What is Mongolian Food Like? Webpage: What Sort of Clothing Do Mongolians Wear? Webpage: What is School Like in Mongolia? (Boy's View) Webpage: What is School Like in Mongolia? (Girl's View) Video: Mongolia: Mongolian Nomads</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Narrative Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Sea dragons are amazing creatures. They look like moving branches with leaves. After reading the source material and viewing the live video, write a myth about how sea dragons came into being and how they came to look and live as they do. Although this is a myth, make sure that you use facts and details from the stimulus material about both sea dragons and Poseidon. Remember that a myth: *explains a natural phenomenon (like sea dragons). *includes supernatural beings, such as gods and goddesses, and/or supernatural events (Poseidon and any other you wish to include). *may include extraordinary events, such as a girl turned into a spider, or a king who turns everything he touches to gold. *may express the values of the culture in which it is set *is passed down through oral tradition (pretend that you are finally writing down something that has been passed down orally for years).</p> <p>Webpage - National Geographic: Leafy and Weedy Sea Dragons Live Video: Weedy Sea Dragons Webpage - Greek Gods: Poseidon Webpage - Australian Museum: Common Sea dragon</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Narrative Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>A friend of yours who lives in another country is coming to your town for a special occasion. He or she contacts you for information about things to do or see during the visit. Think of several activities or sights your friend should consider that might be fun or different and explain why you think they would be enjoyable.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>The nineteenth-century American author Louisa May Alcott wrote: "I'm not afraid of storms for I'm learning how to sail my ship." Consider the meaning of this quote in relation to your own experience or the experience of someone you admire. Write a well-developed essay describing how this quote applies to that situation.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Suppose the community you live in qualifies for a one million dollar grant to spend on a community program or building. Compose an essay explaining what should be done with the money and why. Use relevant facts and concrete details to support your explanation.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Look carefully at the painting "Sir William Pepperrell (1746-1816) and His Family" by John Singleton Copley. What does this painting tell you about life during the time in which it was painted (1778)? Write an essay in which you describe the painting and explain the inferences you can draw from the painting about life during that time. Use as many details as possible to fully develop your description. Carefully consider: *the family members, how they are grouped, what they are doing, and their expressions *how the family members most likely relate to one another *the clothes the family is wearing *the setting of the painting *the size of this painting (7 1/2 ft. x 9 ft.) and what it indicates about the way the family lived and the values of the time.</p> <p>Painting: Sir William Pepperrell (1746-1816) and His Family</p>	<p>7/8 9/10</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>

Social Studies	The world has many problems that need to be solved. If you could choose to do something that would help a person, your community or the world, what would you do? Think about the possibilities and then choose one. Describe what problem you would like to solve, giving facts, examples and details to support your explanation.	8	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	If we could only have five laws, what should they be? Explain what these laws should be and why they are the most crucial to our country or to mankind. Be sure to use facts and examples in your logical explanation.	8	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	A local business is interested in funding a town youth center. Write a plan for creating the youth center. Include information about its location, hours of operation, what it looks like, and what activities and services will be available. Be sure to develop your response fully.	8	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	As a student, you have had many experiences in schools and probably have some opinions about what a good school would be like. You might consider such things as school campus, type of schedule, work load, teachers, athletics, etc. Write an essay explaining what makes a good school, using facts as well as examples of your own experience and those of people you know.	8	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	The number of homeless people in our country is growing every year. Explain what should be done to help homeless people. Be specific about what should be done and why, and how this could be accomplished.	8	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Many famous individuals, both real and fictional, have been honored with a commemorative postage stamp. Choose a real person or fictional character who deserves this honor. Write a letter to US Postmaster General Patrick Donahue, arguing for a postage stamp to be created in this person's honor. The attached stimulus material has been provided to help you find ideas, concepts and information supporting your choice. You may also use other credible sources for ideas, concepts, and information to develop your essay. Webpage: Biographies for Kids Webpage: Biography - For Kids	8	Argumentative
Social Studies	The Declaration of Independence of the United States was ratified and adopted in 1776, and has been the foundation of our federal government ever since. Its most famous sentence reads, ""We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." Is this statement still true? Write an essay in which you argue whether or not this statement applies today to all the men and women living in the United States. Use examples, facts, and details from credible sources to support your argument.	8	Argumentative
Social Studies	The principal at your school is considering making community service a requirement for all 7th and 8th graders. This would require 10 hours of volunteer work in the community each year. Do you agree or disagree with this idea? Write an essay in which you argue for or against this idea. Consider how this might affect other school responsibilities as well as the advantage of this type of experience for young people. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources.	8	Argumentative
Social Studies	Your school district is considering allowing middle school students to leave school during lunch. This will necessitate a one-hour lunch period. In order to extend the lunch hour, school dismissal time will be extended by 40 minutes. Write a speech to be given to your classmates arguing for or against the proposed lunch break. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources and acknowledging opposing claims. Be sure to include how you think the proposal will impact the community (restaurants, traffic, etc.) as well as the educational needs of students.	8	Argumentative
Social Studies	Choose an historical person and read the biography on the attached link. Then, from the point of view of that person, write a journal entry about one day in your life. Make sure to include descriptive details that clearly show the setting and the personality of the person you choose.	8	Narrative Informative/Explanatory

<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>In 2013, six cans of gold coins dated 1847 to 1894 and worth \$10 million were discovered buried in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California. Officials do not know who buried the gold. Who buried the gold? Why? Attached are the report about the gold's discovery and several articles to suggest from where the gold might have come. After reading the stimulus material, create your own story of how and why the gold came to be buried there. To make it as realistic as possible, use facts and details from one or more of these sources in your narrative.</p> <p>Webpage: Who Buried the \$10 Million in Coins Found by a California Couple—and Why? Webpage: Western Expansion: California Gold Rush Article: Thieves Among Us Book Chapter: The Salton Sea California's Overlooked Treasure: Chapter 2</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Narrative Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Read the article and explore the website information about life during the Middle Ages. Then write a journal entry that records a typical day in the life of a person during the Middle Ages. You may choose from any of the social classes (nobility, knights, peasants, clergy, merchants, etc.) for your main character. Use the information gained in the resources provided to illuminate the daily ritual and the character you create in your narrative. Be sure that your journal entry is historically correct.</p> <p>Article: Social Class in the Middle Ages Website: Life During the Middle Ages</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Narrative Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Create a memoir of Malala after viewing her story from CNN. Begin the memoir before the events captured in the video, include the day she was wounded, and conclude the memoir with her speech. Do your very best to capture her passion for education as well as her thoughts and emotions throughout.</p> <p>Website: Interactive Timeline: Malala Yousafzai's Extraordinary Journey Video: The story of Malala Yousafzai Article: Gordon Brown: Malala's U.N. speech is Just the Beginning</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Narrative Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>The Salem Witch Trials had a huge impact on the history and legal system of our country. Why do you think they happened? What made the community believe so strongly in the girls that they would put friends and neighbors to death? Can you think of any modern occurrence that compares to the sense of hysteria created during that time? Write an essay in which you analyze the events during that time and draw conclusions as to why they might have happened. Were these events caused by ignorance, the times, the strictness of the Puritan beliefs, or human nature? Could something like this, where a community turns on its own, happen again?</p> <p>Article: The Salem Witch Trials</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>You have just won a trip to any country of your choice. However, you must spend your time being of service to the country you visit. Write a journal entry, detailing what you are doing. Make sure to include descriptive details about the country, the people you meet, and how your work is helping.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Assume that your reader has never been to school in America. Inform him/her about the day to day schedule, routine, social, and academic side of school in America. You may of course make it personalized from your own experience in your high school.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>

<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Many communities have pollution problems with their air or water. Can you think of solutions to the problem of pollution in your community? Write an essay describing how pollution affects your community and what can be done about it. Use concrete details and examples from the article as well as your own knowledge and experience to support your ideas.</p> <p>Webpage: Air Pollution</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>An historic building in your community has closed. Community leaders want to save the building and have asked for suggestions from residents as to what should be done with it. Come up with a plan for the building. What could the building be - a theater? A sports facility? A marketplace? Explain how the building can be used in a way that benefits the community and maintains its historic quality.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Informative/Explanatory</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Who do you consider to be a hero? Be sure to present and explain your claim as to why this person fits the requirements of a hero. Make sure you are clear that this person is a hero and not just famous. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources and must have sufficient facts and relevant details to support your choice.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Argumentative</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Suppose the government is building a new highway through your community. The highway will provide quick and easy access to a nearby major city. Residents of some neighborhoods are being forced to sell their homes to the government to make room for the new road. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, arguing for or against the highway construction. Support your position with relevant ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Argumentative</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Some people say that Babe Ruth was the greatest baseball player to ever play the game. After studying the stimulus materials describing Ruth's career and comparing him to other legendary players, decide if you agree or disagree with this statement. Be sure to support your claim with information, ideas, and concepts from the attached materials.</p> <p>Webpage: Babe Ruth vs. Barry Bonds Video: Babe Ruth - Sultan of the Swat Webpage: Major League Baseball: The Case for Babe Ruth as the Best Ever Article: Who Was Better? Babe Ruth or Barry Bonds? Webpage: Hank Aaron's 755 Home Runs</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Argumentative</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>Many people are concerned about violence and other potentially offensive material on television and the effect that these things may have on our young people. In recent years, TV networks have started using a rating system that tells whether the program may be offensive to some people. Is this a good idea? Write an essay for your school newspaper in which you argue for or against a rating system for television programs. Ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources should be used to support both your claim and the counter-claim, pointing out strengths and weaknesses of both.</p> <p>Webpage: TV Parental Guidelines</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Argumentative</p>
<p>Social Studies</p>	<p>In some countries, there is no draft requiring all young people 18 or older to serve in the armed forces for a period of years. However, other countries require a mandatory period of service for both men and women. Write an essay in which you argue for or against a mandatory draft, using concepts, ideas, and information from credible sources to give your argument strong support.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Argumentative</p>

Social Studies	Communities everywhere have problems, including homelessness, poverty, pollution, lack of employment, school funding and attendance, and crime. Think of a problem that exists in your community. Explain what the problem is, why it is a problem worthy of attention, and then what you and others might do to solve the problem. Be sure to your essay includes clear explanations with strong supporting details and examples.	10	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	What do you believe is an accurate definition of human rights? Give an example of a human right that each individual deserves to further support your explanation.	10	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	If you could look into a special mirror and see exactly what is happening someplace else in the world, what place would you like to watch? What events would you hope to see taking place? Describe the scene and explain your reactions to what is going on. Be sure to develop your response fully.	10	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Read the article and then explore the webpage, including the video at the bottom of the page. Then create a first-person narrative that captures your first moments as an immigrant in America. You may use details from any of the materials provided to help enrich your story. Be sure to include plenty of descriptive detail, as well as reflection.	10	Narrative Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Abraham Lincoln is known as one of the finest speech writers the United States has ever produced. His "Second Inaugural Address" is hailed by historians as his finest speech. The stimulus material includes background information on Lincoln and his speech, a printed copy of the speech, a copy of the original speech, and a photograph of the inauguration. After studying the stimulus material, write an essay in which you analyze the speech, its theme, underlying purposes, and rhetorical aspects. Your essay should, in the end, explain why the address is so admired. Article: Abraham Lincoln Speech: Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln Artifact: Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865, in Lincoln's Hand	11	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	In 1803, Thomas Jefferson requested that Congress fund an exploration of the West by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The request was secret, because the US did not own the territory. Read the introductory article and the actual document, and then write an essay in which you adopt the role of a congressman who served during that time. Your essay will be in the form of a speech which analyzes the pros and cons of granting Jefferson's request. You must use the information available in 1803 and develop your essay with regard to the interests of the United States of 1803. Remember that the US was still a fledgling country, and that Jefferson and members of Congress would not have any information about the present-day US. Use information from the document and from other credible sources to develop your essay. Speech: Introduction: A Message to Congress Document: Jefferson's Secret Message Article: The Louisiana Purchase	11	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Read "The Blue and the Gray" and "An Address by an EX-Confederate Soldier to the Grand Army of the Republic." Then write an essay in which you analyze the poets' treatment of their shared theme. Poem: "The Blue and the Gray" Poem: "An Address by an Ex-Confederate Soldier to the Grand Army of the Republic"	11	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Write an essay describing what you think the "American Dream" entails. Include personal experience and descriptive details in your explanation. You may also want to include some historical references.	11	Informative/Explanatory

Social Studies	Mark Twain wrote, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." Consider this quote in relation to the tabloid press, not known for its fact checking. Write a well-developed essay in which you explore the appeal of the tabloid press and its negative and positive aspects. Include well-supported reasons for each aspect you describe.	11	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	In 1952, Adlai Stevenson, a politician, said, "My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular." Think about what Stevenson is saying about what makes a society free. Write a well-developed essay discussing the significance of this statement in today's world. Be sure to develop your essay fully.	11	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>After reading the two articles, write an essay to appear in a Future Business Leaders publication arguing which of the presented articles depicts the more likely scenario in the poultry industry. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from the articles. You may also wish to follow one or more of the links on the webpages for more information and evidence. Be sure to thoroughly and fairly develop both your claim and the counterclaim(s), and point out both the strengths and weaknesses of each.</p> <p>Webpage: Is Tyson Foods' Chicken Empire A 'Meat Racket'? Webpage: New Book Misses its Mark, Does Nothing to Educate Consumers on Realities of Modern Poultry Production</p>	11	Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>After reading Elie Wiesel's essay and biography, consider his belief that "without memory, there is no culture . . . no civilization, no society, no future." Write a narrative using his theme of the importance of the memory. Think about what kinds of events would fit this requirement. It might be one that is local, national, or international. However, your story should emphasize the importance of bearing witness to those who were not there. Use a variety of techniques to build your story and emphasize its theme.</p> <p>Essay: A God Who Remembers Article: Elie Wiesel</p>	11	Narrative Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	Write a narrative from the point of view of an exchange student about your first few days in your American state, city, and school. Include in your narrative your thoughts and reactions to what you observe as a person from another country. Feel free to offer commentary about differences, defining traits, and/or similarities between your home and what you are experiencing in America.	11	Narrative Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>The two attached articles present very different views on the results of Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Write an essay in which you analyze the differences in the two claims and explore the following questions: How significant is the difference between the two claims? How would each of these differing claims impact the future of nuclear energy? Use concepts and information from the texts to develop and support your points.</p> <p>Article: Backgrounder on Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident Article: Apocalypse Today: Visiting Chernobyl, 25 Years Later</p>	12	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>After reading the introduction and the document, consider the climate in which General Eisenhower wrote the order. Then write an analysis of Eisenhower's order. Consider the rhetoric he used to inspire and encourage his listeners, including soldiers and Allied leaders. How effective might the order have been? Use specific, significant details and quotes from the text to support your analysis.</p> <p>Introduction: Eisenhower's Order Document: Eisenhower's Order of the Day</p>	12	Informative/Explanatory

Social Studies	<p>“The truth is not always the same as the majority decision.” Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) Pope of the Roman Catholic Church (1978-2005) Write a well-developed essay exploring the meaning of this statement. How does it relate to your own experiences and/or to society as a whole? Use facts and examples from your experiences or from the world at large to support your ideas.</p>	12	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>Leaders like Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, knew that speaking publicly about their beliefs put them in danger of imprisonment and death. Yet many current leaders continue to speak out against what they consider to be wrong. Are these people different from the rest of us? What makes them willing to sacrifice so much for their beliefs? Write an essay in which you analyze this issue and draw conclusions from your analysis. Your essay must be based on concepts, ideas, and information from credible sources.</p>	12	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>Mahatma Gandhi once said, “You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.” Think about what this statement is saying about humanity. In a well-developed essay, provide your reaction to this statement as it relates to your life or to the larger world.</p>	12	Informative/Explanatory
Social Studies	<p>Both the Summer and Winter Olympics are held every four years, but they are on a different schedule. That means that every two years, nations of our world send their finest athletes to the Olympics. Countries spend thousands of dollars to vie for the chance to host either the summer or winter games. However, the privilege of hosting the games is terribly expensive. The 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia cost \$51 billion, and that figure may climb as countries try to top previous hosts. In addition, there are often political issues with which the host cities must deal. After reading the stimulus material, write an editorial for your local newspaper arguing whether or not the Olympic Games are worth the cost, both financially and politically for host cities. Make your claim clear, with strong reasons and supporting evidence. Address counterclaims as well to make your argument as strong as possible. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from the attached texts.</p> <p>Webpage: 10 Olympic Games That Nearly Bankrupted Their Host Countries Article: Why Are the Olympics Important? Article: How the Olympics Changed the World</p>	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>Read the attached poem and article, then view the post card. Consider how important this story would seem if the heroine was a woman in her thirties, as McCartney claims, instead of her mid-nineties. Would the poem have the same impact? We have no way of knowing if, in this case, Whittier was mistaken or calculating. However, what is the ethical line for poetic license? Is it ethical to change history to make a stronger statement? Write an essay to present at a state conference on ethical behavior. Use evidence from the poem and the article as well as ideas, concepts, and information from other credible sources to develop your essay.</p> <p>The Ballad of Barbara Fritchie Barbara Fritchie Didn't Wave That Flag Barbara Fritchie Post Card</p>	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>Approximately 1% of the entire US budget is spent on other countries in some type of aid. This includes military, medical, farming, manufacturing, and food supply. Although 1% is not much comparatively, this turns out to be \$25 billion out of a budget of \$2.7 trillion. Should this money be spent? Write an editorial to be published in your local newspaper in which you argue for or against the spending of this amount of money on foreign aid. Your claim may include the adjustment of this expenditure as well as full support or rejection. Your essay must be based on ideas, information, and concepts from credible sources and must develop both claim and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly. Be sure to point out the strengths and limitations of both.</p>	12	Argumentative

Social Studies	According to Alexander Hamilton, "Men often oppose a thing merely because they have had no agency [part] in planning it, or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike." Was Hamilton right? Write essay in which you argue this point. Your essay must be based on concepts, ideas, and information from credible sources.	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	In the eighteenth century, philosopher Jeremy Bentham wrote, "The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." Carefully examine the validity of the statement. In an editorial for your school newspaper, argue whether or not this is a good rule for making moral or legal decisions, pointing out its strengths and its limitations, using arguments that are relevant to your audience.	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	<p>After reading Wilfred Owen's poem and viewing the other material provided, rewrite the poem into a short narrative. Use the details from the video, image, and the poem to capture the experience of being in a war and being attacked with gas. You may use first or third person in your narrative, but be sure to use vivid description for the setting, emotions/thoughts, and events as you recreate this famous poem. How can you best convey the poet's use of the line, "Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori" (How sweet it is to die for one's country)?</p> <p>Poem: Dulce Et Decorum Est (How Sweet It Is) Webpage: Why Chemical Weapons Have Been A Red Line Since World War I Video: Poison Gas in World War I Photos: Men in Gas Masks</p>	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	The town where you live is considering passing an ordinance prohibiting teenagers from gathering on the streets and in parks and malls. They have invited students from your school to put in writing whether they are for or against the issue. Write an essay to be presented to the town council stating your position – pro or con – on the pending ordinance. Choose reasons that will be most likely to persuade the members of the council, supporting your argument with relevant facts and examples.	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	Should there be a required next step for graduating high school students? For example, some countries require a year of military or volunteer service from graduating students. Should there be a required higher level of learning or something similar to what other countries are doing here in the United States? Write an essay in which you argue for or against this idea. Develop both your claim and the counterclaim(s) fairly and thoroughly, pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of both. Your essay must be based on ideas, concepts, and information from credible sources.	12	Argumentative
Social Studies	In the eighteenth century, philosopher Jeremy Bentham wrote, "The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." Carefully examine the validity of the statement. In an editorial for your school newspaper, argue whether or not this is a good rule for making moral or legal decisions, pointing out its strengths and its limitations, using arguments that are relevant to your audience.	12	Argumentative