

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** Hello, everyone, welcome to tonight's social studies forum...

**MichaelH:** as we normally do, let's start with introductions....

**MichaelH:** would all of you present like to say hello, who you are, and where you are from?

**AndreaYH:** Hi, I am a pre-service teacher in Houston, Tx

**LauraCo:** I am a PUMA student from the University of Houston.

**DellaS:** I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston

**SandraHe:** Hello, pre-service teacher from the University of Houston (PUMA)

**JillianH:** I am a pre-service teacher from the University of Akron.

**DebbieRa:** I'm a grad student at CLU in Thousand Oaks, CA - I have my pre-lim secondary social science credential

**MichaelH:** a lot of Texans tonight... have you seen the new Alamo movie?

**AndreaYH:** no

**AndreaYH:** was it good

**DellaS:** not yet, have not had time for much lately.

**LauraCo:** No, but I want to. Heard it was really good.

**DebbieRa:** Who has time for movies?

**SandraHe:** no, too much work little time for anything else

**LauraCo:** I am with you Sandra

**MeredithLH** joined the room.

**DellaS:** Michael have you saw the movie?

**MichaelH:** no, I haven't yet

**SusanR** joined the room.

**SandraHe:** I heard they made it as close to history as possible

**MeredithLH:** Which movie are you talking about?

**JillianH:** Alamo

**MichaelH** has actually been to the Alamo, however...

**MeredithLH:** Is this the social studies forum?

**LauraCo:** yes

**MichaelH:** yes, we think so...

**SandraHe:** haha

**MichaelH** is still looking for the basement in the Alamo, however

**DavidIB** joined the room.

**DellaS:** basement

**MichaelH:** yep, the basement

**MichaelH:** when I was in San Antonio two years ago... we visited the Alamo on a Monday...

**MichaelH:** the next day...

**MichaelH:** there were some PETA protestors (female)

**MichaelH:** who had spray painted themselves with zebra stripes...

**MeredithLH:** Sorry to be off topic, but do any of you have advice about using things like powerpoint in your classroom?

**MichaelH:** and they ummm... stripped in front of the Alamo...

**MichaelH:** . o O ( day late/dollar short )

**LauraCo:** interesting

**MichaelH:** Meredith, what did you want to know?

**DellaS:** that's life

**DavidIB:** is this the Social Studies Forum?

**MichaelH:** we think so...

**DavidIB:** that sounds reassuring!

**MichaelH:** Meredith... what sorts of PP question did you have?

**DellaS:** I guess that topic is current events at the alamo

**DebbieRa:** Meredith, I use powerpoints for my 9th grade geography lectures

**MichaelH:** hey would you University of Houston people do me a favor?

**LauraCo:** sure

**SandraHe:** yes

**SuzanneG** joined the room.

**MichaelH:** have your instructor come here with you next time...

**SandraHe:** will pass on the message

**LauraCo:** okay, why?

**MichaelH:** he/she needs to know what's going on in the forum and work with me to make this a worthwhile educational experience for you folks.

**DellaS:** I'll let her know

**AndreaYH:** My instructor did not send me!

**DavidIB:** I am sorry to be a bother at the moment . . .but is there a topic list or agenda that I could review?

**MichaelH:** Hi, David, Meredith just asked about Power Point, and I wanted to get an idea about what I could help her with.

**DavidIB:** oh ok, thanks

**MichaelH:** do you have any Power Point suggestions, David?

**MeredithLH:** I was just wondering if you think it is worth the effort

**DavidIB:** I am more of a fan of web based notes and presentations

**MeredithLH:** I was considering using it, but am not sure if I should (will it be worth my time)

**AndreaHa:** At third grade we incorporate our vocabulary terms into powerpoint presentations with pictures what grade do you teach?

**DebbieRa:** I prefer having a ppt ready to writing on the whiteboard

**MichaelH:** Meredith, I certainly think it is worth the effort...

**JillianH:** I have found that once you do it a few times, PowerPoint does not seem like nearly as much effort.

**DellaS:** You can create a slide show pertaining to the topic that you are going to teach

**SandraHe:** I have seen powerpoint presentation in different ways used in the classroom. I have seen them used as a introduction for open house, in lessons for notes, in lessons as introductions

**MichaelH:** however, I'll go a bit beyond the idea of having PP based notes...

**DavidIB:** I agree Debbie . . . it saves from repeating the same information from class to class

**MichaelH:** here's why...

**DebbieRa:** you can add pictures you find on-line...for geography...that is sites from around the world

**MichaelH:** first of all, you would have to have a sizable projection instrument, or have your font size at least 72 pt. for kids to actually see and read pp notes

**MichaelH:** now, there is another angle to this... why not use PP as an instructional tool with students... let THEM do the Power Pointing....

**MichaelH:** want some examples?

**DavidIB:** sure

**DellaS:** yes

**JillianH:** please

**MichaelH** digs in his bag of tricks...

**SuzanneG:** Please

**MichaelH:** one second

**AndreaHa:** start listing

**BJ:** while we wait...

**BJ:** a reminder to click on the ACTIONS menu and then DETACH

**BJ:** that makes your chat window larger and easier to read

**LauraCo:** thanks

**MichaelH:** sorry, BJ, forgot to tell 'em that...

**DellaS:** I am so glad that we know how to integrate technology into our classrooms

**SuzanneG:** Thanks

**MillieD** joined the room.

**MeredithLH:** Sure, thanks so much!

**MichaelH:** ok... the first example I'm going to show you is one from nearly seven years ago now...

**MichaelH:** here's what I will do...

**MichaelH:** I'll introduce this, then you can click on the link I'll show to look at the page.

**MichaelH:** Next you can actually download some student made projects and get a sense on how students can use PP as a learning tool

**MichaelH:** one question first...

**MichaelH:** which is more important... for students to learn PP or to learn social studies?

**DavidIB:** GREAT POINT!

**SuzanneG:** Why not both

**MichaelH:** Suzanne that's a good question...

**MichaelH:** however...

**DavidIB:** I ran into the same issue with my kids and FrontPage 2000

**MichaelH:** let's remember what we teach...

**MichaelH:** we teach social studies...

**DellaS:** both as long as learning takes place.

**MichaelH:** and in my view, let's let the technology be a learning tool, not an end onto itself

**DavidIB:** Start small and simple so as not to lose the focus of being a teacher

**MichaelH:** for example...

**SandraHe:** I agree  
**MeredithLH:** Thanks for all the great advice.  
**MichaelH:** when I did this, I was teaching government and freshman social studies...  
**MichaelH:** therefore what should my focus have been?  
**MichaelH:** anyone?"  
**DellaS:** some of us are elementary teachers and pp will be a tool that we use.  
**DebbieRa:** government and social studies  
**MichaelH:** absolutely  
**MichaelH:** so...  
**MichaelH:** let me ask you to critique this...  
**MichaelH:** now, remember... don't be too tough on me...  
**MichaelH:** this is from Fall, 1997...  
**DavidIB:** don't worry pal  
**MichaelH:** there's been a lot of water under the bridge, and unfortunately, a lot of gray on top of my head  
**DavidIB:** we have to start somewhere!  
**SuzanneG:** I'm just learning now  
**MichaelH:** this was a lesson I did in conjunction with a Assignment Discovery series called "The Modern Presidency" ...  
**MichaelH:** take a couple of minutes to look at the page (remember, it's in the transcript), and then come back here to continue the discussion  
**MichaelH:** just click on the link, and it will open in a new window  
**MichaelH:** remember... don't be gone long  
**MichaelH:** <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutch/modpres/mainpage.htm>  
**MichaelH** checks to see if everyone can see the page...  
**DavidIB:** got it  
**DellaS:** got it  
**AndreaHa:** mine won't go  
**SandraHe:** got it  
**MichaelH:** Andrea, check to see if it's in a minimized window...  
**DavidIB:** now was this for a class presentation?  
**DebbieRa:** did the students set up the info on the presidents?  
**MichaelH:** David, this was for a class assignment  
**AndreaHa:** ok  
**DavidIB:** or a report?  
**MichaelH:** here's what they did...  
**MichaelH:** I had my seniors do PP, and had my freshmen do web pages...  
**DellaS:** This is great. I know that the student's learned social studies and pp  
**MichaelH** . o O ( they used Netscape Gold... that gives you an idea how long ago this was )  
**DebbieRa:** did they work in groups?  
**MichaelH:** yes  
**DebbieRa:** how did you introduce the assignment?  
**SandraHe:** In one of my technology course we did something like your lesson on Webquest.  
**SuzanneG:** To a new comer like me this is very impressive

**MichaelH:** BTW: all the materials I had for this project... everything... is available on the web page and you can use any of it you like

**DellaS:** The finished product shows that they achieved what you set out for them to accomplish

**DebbieRa:** how long did it take?

**MichaelH:** whoops, forgot one thing...

**MichaelH:** here's the URL with all the project material... rubrics, assignment information, etc...

**MichaelH:** <http://ti2.sri.com/archive/projects/presidency/>

**LauraCo:** thanks

**MichaelH:** this page is housed on the Tapped In web site.

**DavidIB:** If you have them or remember . . . what were your objectives for this lesson

**DavidIB:** were you trying to get the kids to have some basic facts about the presidents

**MichaelH:** well, David, my freshmen were learning about history... in other words... how a historian gathers evidence, etc.

**MichaelH:** yes

**DavidIB:** so research . . . but not in conventional paper form

**MichaelH:** we were studying the chapters on the presidency in government class and the Assignment Discovery series was a good help for that

**DebbieRa:** were there specific areas the students were supposed to research?

**MichaelH:** what I did was have the kids research a specific president in the series...

**DavidIB:** as far as the presentation what were your grading criteria?

**MichaelH:** I added a couple of presidents that weren't on the tv series

**MichaelH:** David, I've got the rubrics (crude as they are) on the web page for download...

**DavidIB:** that would be great

**MichaelH:** you can also see all the requirements I had, etc.

**MichaelH:** Now, remember, this was VERY basic

**DavidIB:** seeing the finished product is cool . . . but I am more interested to see the plan and what your mindset was in regard to the lesson

**MichaelH:** before long, I sort of branched out a bit.

**DellaS:** what model of lesson plan did you use?

**MichaelH:** that's all on the TAPPED IN page... you should be able to pretty much recreate the entire assignment from that

**MichaelH:** . o O ( pardon how cheesy that page looks )

**DebbieRa:** Did you find that writing about the President they researched and then using technology for a web page, helped your students have a better understanding of the material?

**MichaelH:** Debbie, I didn't really evaluate them on that aspect (although I should have)... today I would probably have done more...

**MichaelH:** however, based on what technology was like in my district at that time, and what the kids did, I was more than pleased.

**DebbieRa:** so much now about teaching to the standards, I find that writing really helps students grasp the information

**SuzanneG:** What were the students comments about this lesson do you remember?

**DavidIB:** so in the seven years since, I am excited to hear how you have grown and how your expectations have changed

**MichaelH:** I think they liked it... especially when they got feedback from people from some of the presidential libraries, and from the Discovery Channel

**DellaS:** Did you have a reflection on this lesson

**JillianH:** Were your students frustrated with the technology? I do tech support for adult distance learning classes UA, and I know they get frustrated because they don't know how to make PowerPoints and they are required to.

**MichaelH:** that came mainly as e-mail, and was included in some text components, but not online

**MichaelH:** Jillian, that's a really good question.

**MichaelH:** I think it went both ways...

**MichaelH:** one of my favorite stories with this lesson was about a group of girls in one of the government classes.

**MichaelH:** they couldn't get a "C" on a government test, if they put all three of their scores together...

**MichaelH:** but, they just took off with this...

**JillianH:** Debbie, I constantly include writing in my lesson plans that are based on standards (in fact I am working on a set for a class I am in now).

**DellaS:** Teaching that lesson now what would be your focus?

**MichaelH:** one day, I went by the lab during our lunch period... and saw them in there...

**DavidIB:** that is rewarding

**MichaelH:** I asked them, "what are you guys doing", they told me they were working on their project... I reminded them it was lunch... and they told me they'd rather work on their project than eat.

**MichaelH:** I figured that was a good endorsement

**MichaelH:** . o O ( Dr. Atkins can't even claim that! )

**SuzanneG:** Hurray for tech

**DebbieRa:** It just proves that we have to use all sorts of methods to reach our students, since they have different strengths and interests

**MichaelH:** BTW: their project is in the period 6 government class... they did the pp on JFK

**MichaelH:** Della asked a really good question,... we need to go back to that....

**JillianH:** I think that's how I feel when I help one of the students in the classes I cover for DL say, "thanks for showing me how to do it, I got an A"

**MichaelH:** Della, remember what you asked?

**MichaelH:** agree 100% Jillian

**AndreaHa:** That happens sometimes with your ADHD kids -technology will pull them in and they will put themselves really into it

**MichaelH:** Della asked me if I were teaching the lesson today, what would be my focus...

**MichaelH:** well....

**MichaelH:** let's see what I did right (or not right) since then... I'll be the student teacher tonight, and you be the instructor...

**MichaelH:** . o O ( maybe I can get on the U of H faculty..... )

**SandraHe:** As a pre-service teacher that is one thing that our professors and teachers tell us, there are all types of learners and if we understand that it will help us as teachers

**MichaelH:** Sandra, I bet you are talking about multiple intelligences!

**MichaelH:** anyway, are you ready to grade me tonight?

**DebbieRa:** yes

**DellaS:** yes

**LauraCo:** yes

**MichaelH:** Debbie, you sure answered fast!

**DavidIB:** sure

**SandraHe:** ok

**MichaelH:** ok...

**SuzanneG:** can't wait

**SandraHe:** yes, multiple intelligence

**DellaS:** very important

**MichaelH:** The day of the TAPPED IN Summer Carnival in 2001, I'm sitting in my living room watching TV, and see an ad for an upcoming HBO mini-series

**MichaelH:** called....

**MichaelH:** Band of Brothers

**MichaelH:** anyone familiar with it?

**SandraHe:** yes

**LauraCo:** I love war shows and movies

**MichaelH:** o O ( it's on History Channel this week )

**AndreaHa:** I've heard of it

**DebbieRa:** yes I'm watching it because I'm teaching WWII in World History for 10th grade

**DavidIB:** yes

**LauraCo:** great I wanted to see that

**DellaS:** yes

**MichaelH:** I think, "wow, what a great topic for a social studies forum"...

**SuzanneG:** Haven't

**DebbieRa:** It's on history channel right now...started on Sunday night

**MichaelH:** anyway, I contact my buddies at Cable in the Classroom...

**MichaelH:** and one thing leads to another, and we get the forum set... anyone want to take a guess at what date we scheduled it for?

**DavidIB:** spring break?

**MichaelH:** nope

**MichaelH:** I'll give you a hint... it was in the fall

**SandraHe:** labor day

**MichaelH:** close

**DavidIB:** right after 9-11

**DebbieRa:** 9/11

**MichaelH:** yep

**MichaelH:** 9/12/2001

**MichaelH:** what made it worse was that at least one of the people who was going to be in the session was flying in to NYC from Boston the day before, and of course, that's where one of the planes left from.

**MichaelH:** so we had to postpone...

**DellaS:** and the timing

**SandraHe:** oh no

**MichaelH:** it's still one of the best sessions we ever had though, even though we had it at the end of September instead of the day we were going to...

**MichaelH:** anyway, teachers, I'm giving you a shot at grading me

**MichaelH:** here's the most recent BoB project page I have.

**MichaelH:** <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutch/bob/>

**MichaelH:** ok, professors... tell me what you like and what you don't...

**MichaelH:** . o O ( I'll give you a minute to look at the page and the assorted files )

**MichaelH:** "girds his loins" for the upcoming evaluation....

**SandraHe:** how long did it take you to set it up

**DavidIB:** there is no lack of resources

**LauraCo:** great site

**MichaelH:** Sandra, in actuality, I first developed this site in 2002, and then updated it for last year

**DebbieRa:** What level of students were you having do this project? College Prep, standard, etc?

**DavidIB:** did the kids have any issues when it came to choosing a particular resource to complete the task?

**MichaelH:** Debbie it was a mixed bag... really heterogeneous

**MichaelH:** I'm not sure I follow, David...

**SandraHe:** It is a great series and looks like a great project.

**MichaelH:** we had a lot of fun...

**MichaelH:** and learned a lot about WW II

**AndreaHa:** It looks very interesting

**DavidIB:** I have found that when you give them a lot of sites and places to search . . . some kids get overwhelmed

**DellaS:** Grading you on what I have saw as well as what I have read. I will say you were on topic and that you shared some interesting information with us.

**SandraHe:** I learned quite a bit from the series

**DebbieRa:** I think it's a great project, but I have a low level, English Language Learner class, it would have to be watered down for them to complete

**MichaelH:** the kids had a Marine Corps captain e-mail them, asking to use their projects as part of a presentation HE was doing

**MichaelH:** Would it, Debbie?

**MichaelH:** I'm not sure. I did this with high school juniors and sophomores

**DebbieRa:** How long of video segments did you show at a time?

**DavidIB:** if they didn't complain then it probably was not a problem

**MichaelH:** I also got an e-mail from a surviving family member of one of the characters in the film.

**MichaelH:** I let the kids watch an entire episode

**SandraHe:** very impressive

**MichaelH:** most were about 70-90 minutes

**MichaelH:** Again, anything here you can use, well, you know where it is...

**SandraHe:** Were the parents on board

**MichaelH:** Actually I heard from the families of TWO of the characters in the film.

**SandraHe:** I noticed that you had to get permission slips

**MichaelH:** yes... I had the kids take home a parent form that the parents had to sign...

**MichaelH:** mainly because of the language in the film

**DellaS:** What did the family have to say about it?

**DebbieRa:** the movie was rated R so it is standard to have permission forms

**MichaelH:** David Kenyon Webster's son e-mailed me... I asked his permission to use his dad's picture on the web page (took it from the son's web site)

**DellaS:** Did the student's have to write anything after watching the film?

**MichaelH:** and then the niece of another of the characters e-mailed me... and sent ME a pp presentation she did when she went to the premier of the film at Normandy.

**DebbieRa:** I sometimes ponder about the balance of showing videos in the classroom, how much they should be used, and if you are keeping on task with what you should be teaching????

**MichaelH:** She had all sorts of pictures of her, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, and Stephen Ambrose... how cool is that!?

**SuzanneG:** Wow you had some great input

**MichaelH:** Debbie, that's a good point, but...

**MichaelH:** this was for an educational purpose,. we didn't watch the whole series as a class, and therefore I felt it was justified.

**MichaelH:** One more resource, if you want to see it.

**AndreaHa:** yes

**DellaS:** The video should be showed to enhance what the teacher is teaching.

**SuzanneG:** sure

**MichaelH:** well, the next year... I was honored to be asked to help write curriculum for a re-airing of one of the most watched PBS series in history...

**SandraHe:** I like the fact that you were not just showing pieces that you actually let them see it and put it out there

**MichaelH:** a little film called "The Civil War"

**JeffC:** what was it about?

**MichaelH:** Spanish-American war, Jeff

**MichaelH:** . o O ( 50,000 comedians in the world out of work, and I get Jeff )

**JeffC:** lol

**DebbieRa:** so is your curriculum available?

**MichaelH:** anyway, well, I kept bugging the people at the PBS affiliate that produced this...

**MichaelH:** "wouldn't be nice... if we could get... on our stage..."

**MichaelH:** "Jeff Cooper"....

**MichaelH:** whoops, wrong stage...

**MichaelH:** and we got the other guy....

**MichaelH:** what was his name, Jeff????

**DellaS:** Thanks for all of the information that you shared Michael and I really think that you are a well prepared instructor.

**JeffC:** uh...

**MichaelH:** oh, some guy named Ken Burns...

**MichaelH:** we had him in a forum session

**JeffC:** oh yeah

**JillianH:** cool

**MichaelH:** it was a heck of a lot of fun

**MichaelH:** ummm... one thing...

**MichaelH:** Ken's not a computer person, so we had to hook him up on the phone, I asked him questions, and we had a typist do his answers

**MichaelH:** you just can't imagine how much fun it was to pick up the phone, and hear the voice on the other end say, "hi, this is Ken"...

**MichaelH:** so, I had a talk with Ken Burns in my den.

**SuzanneG:** Thank you Michael...great input and good work...I give you an A

**MichaelH** blushes

**MichaelH:** wait Suzanne, you haven't seen the resource page yet "

**DebbieRa:** how long have you been teaching...I'm a little awed by the company you keep

**SuzanneG:** Waiting

**DellaS:** I'm very impressed

**JeffC:** It's not the length that matters

**MichaelH:** <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutchison/civilwar/>

**MichaelH:** Debbie, this is my 26th year...

**MichaelH:** except I'm not in the classroom any more

**JeffC:** Oh... except in Michael's case...

**SandraHe:** I too am impressed and give you an A

**DavidIB:** here here!

**LauraCo:** I give you an A too!

**MichaelH** blushes even more

**DellaS:** A

**JillianH:** I concur with everyone else.

**MichaelH:** now wait a second... I fear we may be guilty of grade inflation...

**JillianH:** haha

**DavidIB:** LOL

**DellaS:** Keep this same effort and share what you have with other like you are now doing.

**MichaelH:** there's got to be something that needs adaptation or changing

**MichaelH:** oh, gotta tell you about the NEXT session

**SuzanneG:** accept it with grace...you earned it

**DebbieRa:** I have to give you an "A" but I need more time to research your projects if you want more feedback

**DellaS:** experience is the best teacher

**MichaelH:** well, I have been very lucky too... had a lot of people to support me in what I tried to do.

**DavidIB:** I am interested to see how you made your transition

**MichaelH:** many of them are TI people

**DavidIB:** may I contact you?

**MichaelH:** sure...

**MichaelH:** [mhutch@charter.net](mailto:mhutch@charter.net)

**DebbieRa:** So you're saying if we aren't there yet, like me in my first year of teaching, not to despair

**MichaelH:** absolutely, Debbie

**MichaelH:** don't worry, I know you're doing great already!

**SandraHe:** for me who is just starting out it is great to see such motivation from teachers who have the experience and still love their job

**MichaelH:** we all were first year teachers once,...

**LauraCo:** I agree Sandra

**MichaelH:** hate to tell you, Debbie, but not too far off, you'll wonder where all the time went to

**MichaelH:** next session....

**MichaelH:** is a dandy...

**MichaelH:** we've got some special guests joining us...

**DellaS:** some from the film?

**MichaelH:** who will be discussing a brand new web site that you'll be interested in, especially if you are a secondary teacher

**DebbieRa:** when is the session?

**MichaelH:** it's a new web site dealing with teenage war refugees....

**MichaelH:** two weeks from tonight...

**MichaelH:** 8 p.m. eastern (5 p.m. pacific time)

**DavidIB:** sounds good

**MichaelH:** the site is called "Beyond the Fire", and it's a great technology and social studies resource

**MichaelH:** BTW: Debbie, and everyone else...

**DellaS:** Thanks.

**MichaelH:** you definitely want to nurture friends you get in the "business"... I wouldn't have been half as successful as I am without my friends at TAPPED IN

**SuzanneG:** This was my first chat and it was great thanks to all

**MichaelH:** this is a great resource, and even if you don't attend another social studies forum, TAPPED IN is a wealth of information and assistance

**LauraCo:** Thanks

**AndreaHa:** Thanks Michael I enjoyed the chat

**DebbieRa:** Very True

**MichaelH:** . o O ( and it's free )

**JillianH:** thank you

**SandraHe:** thanks

**MichaelH:** glad you could come

**MichaelH:** have Mary come next time!

**DebbieRa:** This chat session was great. I joined as an assignment but will try to tune in more often

**DebbieRa:** Thanks, Michael. I plan to really check out your sites and hopefully use them

**SandraHe:** I will let her know how impressive your stuff is

**MichaelH:** here's the home page if you want to see it all

**DavidIB:** in that case . . . good night all

**MichaelH:** <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutch/ice2000/default.htm>

**LauraCo:** good night

**DebbieRa:** bye

**MichaelH:** there's even an ugly picture of your forum host

**MichaelH:** waves so long for now...

**AndreaHa:** goodbye

**JillianH:** bye

**SandraHe:** good night

**DellaS:** good night.

**MichaelH** waves