

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

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Room: After School Online Room

JenniferC: so what do we talk about in here?

BJ: good question, Jennifer...

MichaelH: well, Jennifer, this is the Social Studies forum

MichaelH: are you a social studies teacher?

JenniferC: yep

JenniferC: first year

MichaelH: elementary or secondary?

BJ: what we should do is introduce ourselves so Michael knows who his participants are

JenniferC: secondary

MichaelH: good idea, BJ

MichaelH: would everyone like to mention who they are and where they're located?

JenniferC: I'm Jennifer, and I teach sixth seventh grade social studies at congress element.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

MichaelH: in Milwaukee, right, Jennifer?

JenniferC: I'm in mil WI

JenniferC: yea.. sorry I thought we were all from Wisconsin

MichaelH: Robert, Tara, Pam?

TaraCo: I'm Tara and I teach high school social studies--American History and Government in Lake Mary, FL

RobertJC: I Bo I teach Honors Govt. and Economics and American History in lake Mary Fl

BJ . o O (Jennifer, Tapped In has an international membership of over 15,000!)

MichaelH: well, Jennifer, I've been through Milwaukee.

JenniferC: cool

MichaelH is a technology curriculum facilitator in southwestern Indiana

MichaelH wonders if Jennifer is a Packers fan?

MichaelH . o O (she could be a Bears fan...)

JenniferC: of course.. LOL

TaraCo . o O (Bucs fan here)

RobertJC: what part of Pa Michael

RobertJC: Steelers

MichaelH: is Lake Mary HS close to Tampa?

TaraCo: no, Orlando

BJ: If you are new to Tapped In, click on the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and highlight DETACH

MichaelH: BJ's from PA, Robert, I'm in Indiana

RobertJC: opps sorry bj what part

MichaelH: Well, Orlando is closer to Tampa than I am

BJ: I'm in central PA...nw of Harrisburg

MichaelH: BJ, I keep on telling Suzie we need to go to Gettysburg someday...

RobertJC: I grew up in Johnstown

BJ: cool, Robert

MichaelH: So, guys, what would you like to discuss tonight?

JenniferC: how long has everyone been teaching?

MichaelH: 26 years; high school and college level, Jennifer

JenniferC: I'm a rookie working on the end of my second year

BJ: I've been teaching for 20 years

TaraCo: This is my 4th or 5th year

JenniferC: wow.. congrats to you two

MichaelH: . o O (fourth or fifth? hmmm... which one????)

TaraCo: hold on I'll count...

MichaelH: BJ, I dunno about counting

RobertJC: 6th in Florida 10 all together

BJ thinks it's a good thing this isn't a math discussion

MichaelH: Well, I can tell you that Social Studies and math usually doesn't mix

TaraCo: I think it's the 5th.. hey--I teach social studies for a reason you know LOL

RobertJC: I second that or is that third

MichaelH: Tara, you're close to tenure!

MichaelH: I used to tell my students I liked Geometry so much in high school I took it twice

TaraCo: I had tenure when I left Maryland! I had to start fresh down here

MichaelH: You don't carry your experience from one state to another?

BJ: just think...all our years combined = 63!

RobertJC: DO any of you have big plans for the election next year

MichaelH: yeah, BJ, but be sure to tell them that you started teaching when you were 18

BJ: the power of collaboration

TaraCo: Not for pay or for tenure...

MichaelH: that's a bummer, Tara

TaraCo: Big time!

BJ: I have a question that may be related to Social Studies...

MichaelH: Go ahead, BJ :0

BJ: have any of you experienced isolation in your classrooms and how have you overcome it?

MichaelH: you mean isolation in terms of being a teacher? (Guess I need a bit of clarification)...

TaraCo nods in agreement with Michael

BJ: yes, isolation as in being closed in a room with kids all day and having little contact with adults or opportunities for professional development

MichaelH: Well, I guess TAPPED IN provides a good cure for that sometimes

MichaelH: You know, the opportunity to interact with people who do the same thing you do in different parts of the country... who have the same issues or questions...

BJ: . o O (perhaps I should ask you what makes you feel isolated?)

SusanR joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Sue

MichaelH: I'd say there's always been some isolation by those teachers who haven't quite yet embraced technology...

MichaelH: maybe a little jealousy and hurt feelings, too

SusanR listens

RobertJC: Also just spending time online can help

MichaelH agrees with Robert...

TaraCo: I think there's isolation in the school at large. It's a challenge sometimes to make time to talk to peers

TaraCo agrees with Bob too

MichaelH: another thing... I'm guessing you all are a bit younger than I am... and it might be tougher to talk to peers who are older and a bit more burned out...

MichaelH: well, to give you all an idea of the power of TAPPED IN... BJ do you remember what TI was like the night of 9/11?

BJ: hmmm...lots of people logged in, but all formal discussions were pretty much canceled

SusanR: Is there a transcript available?

MichaelH: we just sort of had a big "family get together..."

MichaelH: I'm not sure, Sue... I didn't keep mine... BJ, did Mark or Judi want that information for something at one time?

MichaelH: it was just nice to spend some time that night with our "TAPPED IN family"

BJ: I didn't get a request for a transcript, Michael

MichaelH: I think 9/11 affected TI for some time... session numbers were down for awhile

SusanR: I think I logged on

MichaelH: I think we all just chatted in the Reception area...

MichaelH: For example, I wondered how close BJ was to the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania...

SusanR: perhaps we were glued to our TV screens and CNN

BJ: do I have your permission to quote the participants in this room for an article I'm working on?

MichaelH: sure, BJ...

RobertJC left the room (signed off).

TaraCo: indeed

MichaelH: we had a HUGE session scheduled for the next day... had to postpone that for three weeks...

SusanR: I think we felt a sense of community here at TI

BJ . o O (wonder if that was a no vote from Robert)

BJ: thanks, Tara and Michael

TaraCo: no, he had to go

BJ: ahhh...thanks

MichaelH: some of the people we were going to have as guests couldn't get to their computers or offices because they were in midtown Manhattan

MichaelH . o O (we were doing a big session on the HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers")

TaraCo: what's your article about BJ?

BJ: teacher isolation

BJ: and how teachers deal with it

TaraCo: . o O (thought that might be it)

TaraCo: I'd imagine elem school teachers have more isolation than HS teachers, yes?

MichaelH: Honestly, BJ, I think TI is a good way to combat the isolation... I mean, think of all the people we meet and interact with here... every area of the country, and even beyond...

BJ: Michael is right that there is a true sense of community here in Tapped In.

SusanR: Is it a serious phenomenon?

BJ: Tara, I teach at the highschool level and feel very isolated in my classroom

TaraCo: I tend to think of isolation as a day to day during school hours thing. Is that what you're referring too BJ?

BJ: it extends beyond that, Tara.

TaraCo: BJ, do you have a chance to interact with you peers during lunch or planning periods?

MichaelH: I think we lack (my high school) a lot of contact also...

TaraCo: Can you both tell me more?

BJ: as a new teacher you are probably still taking classes and interacting outside the classroom on professional development

TaraCo: no, not really. In the last two years I've only had one Prof development outside of school

MichaelH: I sort of miss the opportunity to interact and learn things in my subject area... but in Indiana (at least my district), there's not much incentive to continue in school past the Master's degree

TaraCo: but in my school, departments all have the same lunch period so we see each other once a day

BJ: but teachers who are finished with formal classes can easily lose touch with best practices in their field. And professional development workshops tend to be one shot deals.

TaraCo: very true BJ

BJ: when the workshop is over everyone goes their separate ways with no opportunity for feedback

TaraCo: so very true

MichaelH: BJ, wouldn't it be so cool someday if Mark would tell us that there's funding for one big TAPPED IN dinner meeting somewhere... we'd just all meet and see each other f2f

BJ: sighs...oh, that would be wonderful!

BJ: Tara, Michael and I have known each other here in Tapped In for 6 years and have never met f2f

MichaelH: Tara, BJ is one of the few people I know from technology that I've never met... and we've known each other six years

BJ: chuckles.

TaraCo: I guess I see your point though BJ. I noticed whenever I have been in workshops, the group often comments that the most important thing was the ability to share with and learn from peers

MichaelH: great minds, BJ?

BJ . o O (good thing I didn't lie!)

TaraCo: I think that's a pretty neat thing!

MichaelH: well, Tara, BJ has been a member for few days more than me...

TaraCo: lol

MichaelH: just a couple weeks, isn't it, BJ

MichaelH: BJ and I collaborated on an international project soon after we both joined TI

BJ nods to Michael. I joined on Feb 28, 1998

MichaelH: I think I was mid March or close to it

MichaelH: A lot of water under the bridge, BJ

BJ: agrees. I think Sue has been a member of TI for several years now too

MichaelH: I've totally forgotten what my old membership number was... was yours in the 3000s, BJ?

BJ thinks Sue is multitasking. Yes, I think so.

MichaelH: I found out about TAPPED IN through Terrie Gray... how did you find out about it, BJ?

BJ: Tara, have you read anything about the Tapped In Festival that is coming up in July?

BJ: I found out about TI from a professor at Indianapolis University.

BJ . o O (through a bulletin board)

MichaelH: oh, that's right... Greta P.

TaraCo: I read about it briefly, but it falls during the time I'm supposed to be at Pepperdine's VertCamp so I didn't know how involved I could be

BJ nods

MichaelH: met her...

BJ: oh, drat, Tara. It's really fun

MichaelH: Tara, it's an all day deal... if you can get to a computer, you can check in for a bit...

TaraCo: Yeah--I remember being excited and then had my hopes dashed

BJ: You'll enjoy virt camp though

MichaelH: BJ, I'm not sure if Greta is still at U of Indy or not.

TaraCo: Have you been, BJ?

BJ: no, but I've talked to lots of people who have participated

TaraCo: overall they've had good impressions???? I'm a bit nervous

BJ: I haven't heard from Greta in several years. I did talk to Hulda fairly recently

MichaelH: Tara, are you working on a grad degree thru P'dine?

BJ: oh, yes, very good impressions, Tara. Pepperdine has a great program

MichaelH: Haven't talked to Hulda in about five years...

TaraCo: If I make it through VertCamp, that's the plan [sigh]

MichaelH wishes they had online degree programs about 23 years ago...

TaraCo: thanks BJ, that's good to hear!

TaraCo: the problem now, Michael is convincing people it's a real degree...

BJ: I've never heard any complaints from Pepperdine people.

MichaelH: yeah... I know a teacher in California who got a PhD through their online program

TaraCo: very good to know !!

MichaelH: she was the one who introduced me to TI...

TaraCo: I think the online PhD is fascinating

MichaelH: I was part of her focus group in her dissertation

TaraCo: neat!

MichaelH: so we met in TI

TaraCo: also neat

MichaelH: she ran a little educational portal site called "ED's Oasis", and we also would have regular sessions here...

MichaelH: remember "Evening at the Oasis", BJ?

BJ smiles and remembers fondly

MichaelH: those were fun sessions..

MichaelH: long, but fun

BJ: we were all learning then...things haven't changed much!

BJ . o O (we're still learning!)

MichaelH: nope, they haven't...

MichaelH: of course, that was two TI interfaces ago, too

TaraCo . o O (hopefully anyway)

BJ: one thing about Tech, Tara...

BJ: it's always in flux...being improved, changed, added to

MichaelH: absolutely...

TaraCo: so true BJ--that's why I'm working on my masters in Ed Tech--to hopefully ride the wave, not get washed out by it! LOL

MichaelH: so, Tara, do you have hopes of becoming a technology director?

BJ nods solemnly

TaraCo: oh no, not at all

TaraCo: the classroom is the place for me

TaraCo: at least that's how I feel now

TaraCo: there just seems to be such a need....

MichaelH: sure... although I can tell you there's something in helping teachers with tech, also.

TaraCo: whenever I think I may want to leave the classroom, I make a connection with a student (or students) who seem to be in real need. I'm not sure how to let that go

MichaelH: Well, Tara, to be honest, I haven't really missed the classroom all that much; but I'm still working with teachers and students in my present position

TaraCo: I believe that Michael--and I do help some now. Bob and I are the two main tech type people in our department. but it;s not the same

MichaelH: you might find being a tech coordinator, or tech/curriculum coordinator rewarding, too.

TaraCo: that sounds cool Michael. Maybe after I've had a few more years in the classroom I'll be ready.

TaraCo: I have thought about being a distance educator

MichaelH: you might... or you might be surprised that you don't want to leave...

MichaelH: oh, are you familiar with Connected University?

TaraCo: I'm trying to stay open to all things for now...

TaraCo: no, Michael. never heard of it

MichaelH: it's part of Classroom Connect. I've taught classes for them for about four years

MichaelH: all online... some teachers just sign up for personal development, others for CEU credit, and some even for graduate credit

MichaelH: if you want to check it out, go to <http://cu.classroom.com> sometime

TaraCo: sounds interesting!

TaraCo: thanks! I'll mark it for future reading.

MichaelH: they're just starting to get classes in subject areas, but they offer a lot of technology courses still

TaraCo: and it's for educators, not students?

MichaelH: yep

MichaelH: some districts actually get district wide licenses and allow teachers to take the courses

MichaelH: I suppose someone who wasn't in the classroom could sign up... I haven't seen that too frequently, though

TaraCo: I'll definitely look it over

TaraCo: I love coming to these forums. I find out new stuff every time!

MichaelH: BJ, did we address the isolation issue enough?

MichaelH: TAPPED IN is a great resource, Tara...

MichaelH: you'd love the festival in July... all sorts of fun things going on and things to do...

TaraCo: I've found it to be so. and have been spreading the word

MichaelH: that's great...

TaraCo: I'll see if I can check it out during virtcamp. It's my hope that they'll even have us check it out

MichaelH: we'll be doing SS Forum that night, Tara... have special guests joining me about a really cool web resource

TaraCo: Well, hopefully I'll have nights off so I can check it out!

TaraCo: can I get a transcript if I can't make it?

MichaelH: no problem... just send me an e-mail

MichaelH: (mhutch@charter.net)

TaraCo: cool. but I'll do everything I can to get there.

MichaelH: Summer's always a busy time

TaraCo: . o O (and people always talk about our summer's off)

MichaelH: doesn't get that luxury usually... summer school, lessons to write, etc.

TaraCo: so true. I'm already working on projects for next year!

MichaelH: do you know about PBS TeacherSource?

TaraCo: the place you showed us last time?

MichaelH: yeah... didn't know if you had a chance to check that out or not.

TaraCo: some--but not fully yet

MichaelH: C-SPAN has a really good classroom site, too

TaraCo: I'll have more time starting tomorrow

MichaelH: is tomorrow your last day?

TaraCo: yes I've used the C-Span site

MichaelH: . o O (of school)

MichaelH: they were giving away a BIG electoral college map... don't know if they still are or not

TaraCo: unfortunately I don't teach govt in the fall next year

MichaelH: that thing was four feet wide.

TaraCo: I got the map already

TaraCo: it's HUGE

MichaelH: doesn't make any difference, you can probably use materials in a lot of other classes

TaraCo: true

MichaelH: and... it's FREE

TaraCo: the best kind of resource

MichaelH: absolutely.

MichaelH: And, C-SPAN has all sorts of streaming audio/video you can use for free too

TaraCo: yeah, I learned about that from Bob. Unfortunately our school doesn't let the kids use the streaming stuff.

MichaelH: they also have a Curriculum Advisory Team of teachers from all around the US who write lessons for them, and are available to interact with teachers...

TaraCo: now that I didn't know.

MichaelH: If you can use Real Player, you can access the streams

MichaelH: Sure... give me a sec, and I'll show you the page...

TaraCo: yeah, our media center won't download it. I have to check the lab

MichaelH: you should ask them to

TaraCo: there seems to be some issues with our media center staff that may be ironed out next year.

MichaelH: I sure hope so... I'd be happy to go to bat for you via e-mail...

MichaelH: here's the Curriculum Group for C-SPAN

MichaelH: <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/2004team.asp>

TaraCo: thanks for the link. I'll be sure to check it out

MichaelH: sure... just let me know if I can help...

TaraCo: I appreciate it

MichaelH is about ready to call it a night

TaraCo: me too

TaraCo: thanks for all the info and the great discussion

TaraCo waves g'night

MichaelH waves

TaraCo left the room (signed off).

MichaelH left the room (signed off).