

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - PBS Teachers Source

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Guest Speaker: Donelle Blubaugh

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MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

MichaelH: We're featuring one of my favorite sites tonight, and we have a special guest to highlight some of the features on it

MichaelH: Donelle will show us some really cool stuff in a bit, but lets start with introductions first

TramN: I'm Tram Nguyen

MichaelH: if you'll all let us know who you are, where you teach, geographic location, etc.

TramN: I live in Houston, TX

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a friend of Michael's (most of the time)and a Tapped In HelpDesk volunteer. Currently I'm at a technology/education meeting in Orlando

TramN: I'm doing my student teaching at this present time

ElaineL: Elaine Larson, Agency for Instructional Technology, Bloomington, IN

DavidWe . o O (Bloomington!)

SteveV: I'm Steve. I teach in Sarasota, FL.

DavidWe smiles

MichaelH: I'm Michael Hutchison, I teach social studies at a small high school in southwestern Indiana

DavidWe knows that Indiana borders Illinois

MichaelH: I'm also a buddy of David's

DavidWe grins happily

TramN: what a coincidence!

MichaelH looks to see if BJ wants to say "hey"

BJ: hey!

DavidWe giggles

MichaelH: thanks, BJ....

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a SS teacher wannabe

EmilyW: I am Emily, a helpdesk volunteer . I graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington 2 years ago. I am currently in TX.

MichaelH: Donelle is going to be showing us resources on the PBS TeacherSource web site tonight

MichaelH: I know some of you are a little familiar with it

MichaelH: I don't want to take away too much from what Donelle will be talking about, but TeacherSource is a fantastic resource

ElaineL: If one gets lost, can you just go to "online" and click on your name, Michael?

ElaineL: And the open door link?

DavidWe nods affirmatively to Elaine

MichaelH: what you would have to do is click my name and the door, and voila!

EmilyW: they could do that

MichaelH: you could also type /join MichaelH

ElaineL: Good to know. Thanks!

MichaelH: if you double click on my name, you open a Private Message dialog.

MichaelH: if you triple click on my name, I get a migraine

ElaineL: Won't do that!

MichaelH: thanks!

DonelleB joined the room.

MichaelH applauds!

BJ cheers for Donelle

MichaelH: we were about ready to get a really long lasso, Donelle!

DonelleB: Whew! I don't know where I was, but there was no key lime pie there!

ElaineL: Then this is the place to be

MichaelH: just remember, if you get lost again, type /join **MichaelH** and you'll come right back here

SusanR joined the room.

MichaelH waves to Sue

MichaelH: are you ready to show some TeacherSource stuff, Donelle?

SusanR waves and listens

DonelleB: I'm ready. A question first: I'm interested to know what kinds of resources participants are hoping to find.

TramN: I don't have any in particular

MichaelH knows what's on the site, but he'd like to see lessons as well as information about upcoming PBS programming I could use in my classroom

DonelleB: Thanks, Tram. O.K. I'm going to take you on a tour. Hold on--you've just seen that I can easily get, um, detached.

MichaelH: sounds great, Donelle

DonelleB: First, let's go to <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

MichaelH: oh, just a sec...

MichaelH: you can get to the site by clicking the link Donelle just posted. BUT, don't go away long...

DonelleB: When you're there, click on search options under the search box.

MichaelH: look at the site and come back in a minute.... Donelle's got a lot to share!

DonelleB: When you get to the search page enter constitution in the keyword field.

DonelleB: And in #2 check the box for "Topical Reference"

MichaelH: hey, Donelle, I forgot... did you introduce yourself?

DonelleB: Then click search at the bottom of the page.

DonelleB: No. I was exploring the darkened hallways of TI.

DonelleB: I'm Donelle Blubaugh, director of K12 education at PBS.

MichaelH smiles

ElaineL cheers

TramN: sounds very impressive, Donelle!

MichaelH: sorry, Donelle....go ahead

DavidWe sneaks out the door

DonelleB: Has everyone gotten to the search results?

DavidWe left the room.

TramN: I have

ElaineL: yes

DonelleB: I'm taking you here because I want you to see some of PBS's "bundled" resources. This is a quick way to show you the depth and breadth of what you can find here.

MichaelH: cool

TramN: very helpful

DonelleB: Scroll down to the last listing on page one of the search results.

DonelleB: See TeacherSource: Concepts Across the Curriculu, Constitutional . . . ?

DonelleB: Go there.

TramN: yes ma'am

DonelleB: Please.

DonelleB: What you have here is a collection of resources--both PBS and other sources--gather around the them of Constitutional Controversies. This feature can take you to all kinds of rich resources.

TramN: you think I can modify the lesson to fit grades K-2?

DonelleB: Please scroll to the second item under Online Resources.

MichaelH: Tram, I'll remind Donelle about your question in a second

DonelleB: I do. And some of what you find here (or under other topics) will have been built specifically for those grades.

TramN: thanks

DonelleB: Click on the Online Newshour link.

DonelleB: I'm taking you here because I want you to see that for some PBS programs, you can stream entire shows. Or subscribe to RSS feeds.

DonelleB: And I also want to make the point that educators use PBS programs and PBS.org to enhance their subject-matter expertise as well as to tap into lesson plans and add-water-and-stir resources.

MichaelH: very cool, Donelle

TramN: well said!

DonelleB: Teachers of older students may want them to view the NewsHour program. But teachers of younger students, may just want to get better versed in some of these issue so they can present them effectively in the classroom.

ElaineL: Donelle, as often as I've been on the site I've not used the Topical resources search. It's very cool!

DonelleB: I'm thinking here of how often educators are asked (assigned) to teach outside of their subject areas.

TramN: wonder why sometimes

MichaelH: I suppose another way to look at that, Donelle, is how frequently we're expected to teach other things WITHIN our subject area... critical thinking, writing skills, reading, etc.

DonelleB: Isn't it cool? And I hope it will get even cooler. We're working now to expand our search capabilities so we can crawl into other areas of PBS that aren't necessarily labeled as k12 education.

DonelleB: You're right, Michael. We can't all know everything, but we can all learn and share that knowledge.

DonelleB: The advanced search feature (or search options) can lead teachers to a lot of things they may not have thought to look for otherwise.

MichaelH: I suppose too that it's all integral to the teaching of social studies

DonelleB: The social studies area is so varied. One of the things I like about the PBS content for social studies topics is that they go so deep.

DonelleB: Tram, I'm going to take us to a more elementary area in a minute.

TramN: ok

DonelleB: You can see that within one month's Connections Across the Curriculum there's a wide range of treasures.

DonelleB: You can also find great teaching tools when your interest is piqued on the home page of PBS.org. Can we go there now? <http://www.pbs.org>

DonelleB: Are we there?

MichaelH is

ElaineL: yes

TramN: yes

SusanR nods

DonelleB: A program from Independent Lens is the first feature. Please go there.

ElaineL . o O (love Independent Lens)

MichaelH: I watched a bit of this this morning, Donelle. Our PBS station re-runs things frequently around 5 a.m. the next day

DonelleB: Scenario: I'm a HS social studies teacher looking for something off the beaten path. I get to the info about the Girl Scouts project and it's not quite what I was looking for . . .

TramN: how sad!

DonelleB: But the tab for interactive in the horizontal nav catches my eye. Let's go!

TramN: I mean the story

MichaelH is there, and he sees something VERY familiar!

DonelleB: What's that?

MichaelH: Beyond the Fire

MichaelH: Sesh Kannan was with us about six weeks ago or so

DonelleB: Exactly! This is the coolest interactive!

BJ . o O (amazing discussion with Sesh!)

DonelleB: Dang! I'm redundant!

MichaelH: Donelle, I know the guy who was the education advisor for this one (he was here, too for the session)

DonelleB: I love this resource. What a great thing to have in your back pocket when the right teachable moment occurs. Or to CREATE a teachable moment that might not happen otherwise.

DonelleB: And there are similar tools attached to programs like POV. Their Borders project connects to some great interactives.

DonelleB: Shall we visit some things for younger students?

MichaelH: sounds good, Donelle

DonelleB: Please go back to the TeacherSource home a <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/>

DonelleB: Then click on search options.

DonelleB: Enter "geography" as the search term. Under #2 check lesson plans.

DonelleB: Under grade level choose grades 3-5

MichaelH checks to see if everyone's following

ElaineL: yes

TramN: yeah

SusanR: yep

DonelleB: Resource #3 on the search results page should be NOVA: Titanic's Lost Sister. Please go there.

DonelleB: Give me a sec to catch up with y'all

MichaelH: we'll wait, Donelle

TramN: yeah, we'll wait for you

DonelleB: With the Camera Overboard activity students are asked to research ways of exploring underwater. A little science, a little geography.

TramN: right

TramN: a bit challenging, I might say

DonelleB: Then click "click here" in the "Done researching" paragraph.

DonelleB: Yes, you're right.

MichaelH: Tram, you might be able to "adapt" this for your grade level, though

SusanR: . o O (like the interactivity)

TramN: right

ElaineL: . o O (I did it!)

TramN: thanks

DonelleB: There are a lot of resources for the younger crowd. Sorry I didn't plot those in advance. But you can use the personalization feature on TeacherSource and the search options feature to narrow down to very specific topics and grade levels.

MichaelH: Good point, Donelle, they can personalize the site not only for grade level, but subject area and local PBS station, can't they?

DonelleB: Just a couple of things I want to point out before we wrap:

MichaelH listens intently!

DonelleB: First: There are great teaching resources throughout PBS.org that can be found via TeacherSource and also discovered starting at pbs.org (we're working on funding for cataloging everything, Elaine!)

ElaineL: Yes!

TramN: How exciting!

ElaineL: There are SO many resources, and they are so rich. Lots of interactives and great lesson plans.

DonelleB: And, while most of these resources are connected to TV programs, they have life beyond the TV air dates (not that I would want to discourage anyone from buying DVDs at Shop PBS!

MichaelH: Donelle, maybe show 'em Shop PBS for Teachers?

DonelleB: Of course. Ka-ching!

DonelleB: Let me find the right path.

MichaelH: . o O (just bought me "Ken Burns American Stories"...)

TramN: I found it

DonelleB: Great! I'm having trouble getting other pages to load.

MichaelH: <http://teacher.shop.pbs.org/home/index.jsp>

MichaelH: sorry, Donelle, I got excited!

DonelleB: What's the symbol for blowing you a kiss?

TramN: that's it!

ElaineL: Good thing my credit card is in the other room! :>)

MichaelH: Donelle, do you have time to talk about Teacher Previews?

DonelleB: I do.

TramN: that's funny, Elaine!

MichaelH: I could spend a BUNCH of money at Shop PBS for Teachers!

DonelleB: Teacher Previews is an opt-in e-newsletter that lets educators know what's coming to PBS air and to PBS.org.

ElaineL: o O (and I have)

DonelleB: If you go to TeacherSource home, there's a subscription tab in the upper horizontal nav.

TramN: I've got to go!

TramN: bye bye everyone!

ElaineL: Donnelle, I didn't know about this! This is great!

MichaelH: hey, Donelle, I have a major favor about Teacher Previews I need to ask...

MichaelH waves To Tram

TramN: have a good night

TramN: thanks

TramN: bye

ElaineL waves to Tram

DonelleB: The issues are archived. And because you now know you can Shop PBS, you know you don't have to worry about missing something that aired a month ago:)

TramN left the room (signed off).

DonelleB: What's that Michael?

MichaelH: I'll send you an e-mail with my subscription question, ok?

SusanR: Thanks Michael and Donelle..always something new to discover at PBS Teacher Source

DonelleB: Thanks for joining us, Susan!

MichaelH: oh, I just need to get multiple copies of Teacher Previews (I like getting the html version) but I wondered if I could also get a plain text version

DonelleB: And Michael, you and I should talk about what's in store for the upcoming TeacherSource relaunch.

MichaelH: sounds great!

DonelleB: I think so. Please e-mail me the question so I don't forget. I'll ask our crack tech team.

ElaineL: Thanks Donelle and Michael!

MichaelH: sure... I host several listservs, and would like to forward the plain text version of teacher previews to those lists... I'd rather continue to get the html version myself.

DonelleB: A lovely thought, Michael. Thanks!

MichaelH: sure, I'll send you an e-mail on that

MichaelH waves to Elaine

DonelleB: Thanks, Michael for hosting TeacherSource tonight.

MichaelH: It was great having you, Donelle... I hope you'll come back for a return session sometime

ElaineL: Bye all!

MichaelH: We always have a lot of interest when TeacherSource comes to visit.

DonelleB: Now that I know my way around! Bye!

MichaelH: I think everyone at TS has done a session... you, Mary, Tim...

MichaelH: I'll send you an e-mail about Teacher Previews, and about the relaunch

MichaelH: Thanks so much for joining us, Donelle, it was a great session

MichaelH waves