

# Contemporary Issues

## Social Studies Practices

### **1 Collect data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources, including:** SSP.01

- 1 Printed materials SSP.01.1
  - 2 Graphic representations SSP.01.2
  - 3 Field observations/Landscape analysis SSP.01.3
  - 4 Artifacts SSP.01.4
  - 5 Media and technology sources SSP.01.5
  - 6 Oral History SSP.01.6
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### **2 Critically examine a primary or secondary source in order to:** SSP.02

- 1 Extract, summarize, and paraphrase significant ideas and relevant information SSP.02.1
  - 2 Discern differences between evidence and assertion SSP.02.2
  - 3 Recognize the significance of author's purpose, point of view, and bias SSP.02.3
  - 4 Draw logical inferences and conclusions SSP.02.4
  - 5 Assess the strengths and limitations of arguments SSP.02.5
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### **3 Synthesize data from a variety of sources in order to:** SSP.03

- 1 Establish accuracy and validity by comparing sources to each other SSP.03.1
  - 2 Recognize disparities among multiple accounts SSP.03.2
  - 3 Frame appropriate questions for further investigation SSP.03.3
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### **4 Construct and communicate arguments by citing supporting evidence to:** SSP.04

- 1 Demonstrate and defend an understanding of ideas SSP.04.1
- 2 Compare and contrast viewpoints SSP.04.2
- 3 Illustrate cause and effect SSP.04.3
- 4 Predict likely outcomes SSP.04.4
- 5 Devise new outcomes or solutions SSP.04.5
- 6 Engage in appropriate civic discourse SSP.04.6

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**5 Develop historical awareness by:** SSP.05

- 1 Recognizing how and why historical accounts change over time SSP.05.1
  - 2 Perceiving and presenting past events and issues as they might have been experienced by the people of the time, with historical empathy vs. present-mindedness SSP.05.2
  - 3 Evaluating how unique circumstances of time and place create context and contribute to action and reaction SSP.05.3
  - 4 Identifying patterns of continuity and change over time, making connections to the present SSP.05.4
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**6 Develop geographic awareness by:** SSP.06

- 1 Analyzing and determining the use of diverse types of maps based on the origin, authority, structure, context, and validity SSP.06.1
  - 2 Using the geographic perspective to analyze relationships, patterns, and diffusion across space at multiple scales SSP.06.2
  - 3 Analyzing locations, conditions, and connections of places and using maps to investigate spatial associations among phenomena SSP.06.3
  - 4 Examining how geographers use regions and how perceptions of regions are fluid across time and space SSP.06.4
  - 5 Analyzing interaction between humans and the physical environment SSP.06.5
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**Source Analysis Skills:**  
Students will analyze a variety of news sources to demonstrate an understanding of the responsibility of informed citizenship in the age of digital media.

- 1 **Understand the importance of being well-informed and engaged, including identifying problems or dilemmas, proposing appropriate solutions, formulating action plans, and assessing the positive and negative results of actions taken.** CI.01
  - 2 **Identify markers of verification, transparency, accountability, and independence in a news story.** CI.02
  - 3 **Use a variety of methods to verify both written and visual information.** CI.03
  - 4 **Distinguish between opinion and news, and examine for effective arguments and logical and/or illogical reasoning.** CI.04
  - 5 **Evaluate the reliability of an anonymous source.** CI.05
  - 6 **Compare and contrast varying viewpoints, perspectives, and sources on contemporary issues.** CI.06
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**Geography and Environment:** Students will see, understand, and appreciate the web of relationships between people, places, and

- 7 **Describe key geographic concepts, such as scale, pattern, sustainability, diffusion, and connectivity.** CI.07

environments using the knowledge, skills, and concepts within the five themes of geography.

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**8** Describe how changing physical and human characteristics of a place can influence culture, economics, and politics at the local, national, and global level.

CI.08

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**9** Examine key features of major world regions, and explain how current issues link or divide those regions. CI.09

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**10** Analyze how countries are interconnected in the modern world (e.g., improved transportation, communication technology, migration, trade, commodity chains, and multinational organizations). CI.10

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**11** Discuss the immediate and lasting impact of human-environment interactions on places and peoples CI.11

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**Historical Impacts:**  
Students will explore how historical events continue to have an impact on the contemporary world.

**12** Distinguish between historical facts and historical interpretation. CI.12

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**13** Describe the relationships between past and current conflicts, including wars, domestic and global acts of terrorism, and other acts of violence. CI.13

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**14** Describe the relationship between historical events and the contemporary world, and analyze the lasting impacts of these events. CI.14

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**Politics:** Students will analyze and explain how the U.S. government interacts with its citizens and the global community.

**15** Examine the events that unify or challenge state sovereignty and stability (e.g., terrorism, independence movements, internal political/cultural conflict). CI.15

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**16** Describe the patterns of stability and change within political governance (e.g., elections, nullification, political representation, societal movements). CI.16

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**17** Discuss the evolving role of the United States in international affairs and the impact of current events on American policy. CI.17

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**Culture and Innovation:**  
Students will explore the similarities and differences among people, including their beliefs, values, and traditions.

**18** Define culture and compare the concepts of popular culture and local culture. CI.18

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**19** Examine the diffusion and impact of popular culture on local culture, as well as efforts to preserve local culture. CI.19

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**20** Analyze how the diffusion of culture, language, and religion play a role in contemporary issues. CI.20

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**21** Describe the effects of scientific, technological, and medical innovations in society. CI.21

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**22** Analyze the changing role of media and technology on the spread of information and the effects of global culture. CI.22

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