

TEACHING SOCIAL STUDIES PRESCHOOL - 8
INTEGRATED CURRICULUM UNIT RESEARCH PAPER GUIDE
Dr. Ava L. McCall

The **purpose** of the research paper is to explain the social studies content you plan to teach within your integrated social studies unit and to express why you think this topic is important for students' learning. This paper should be a minimum of eight pages in length and will be worth fifteen points.

The first page should contain the definition of your topic and important concepts and ideas connected to the topic. Define any vocabulary words in student-friendly language.

The second and third pages should contain the rationale. Explain the central focus and purpose for the content you plan to teach in one or two sentences. Briefly describe overall what you want your students to gain from your unit and why it is important for their growth and development. Explain which school district benchmarks your unit is addressing and how these benchmarks are connected to the central focus and purpose for the content of your unit. Elaborate on how the benchmarks will help your students learn important social studies facts, concepts, and interpretations, and develop skills in interpreting, analyzing, and making arguments about important social studies ideas.

The next four to six pages should contain the explanation of the content of the unit. Select two or three main subtopics which align with the school district's benchmarks. Create a main heading for each subtopic. For example, in a unit focusing on the question "what do we need to survive," one subtopic is explaining the difference between wants and needs, how they can vary according to individual situations, and the importance of the reasoning process in classifying goods and services as wants or needs. Another subtopic is explaining what goods are and which goods are things we need to live and which are goods we would like to have, but do not need. A third subtopic is explaining what services are and which are crucial for life and which are nice to have, but are not necessary. For each of these subtopics, summarize the main ideas and supporting details and cite the resources used for content within the text using the APA format. Be sure to use reliable sources. Reliable sources include published books and articles by reputable publishers and journals. They should be written by credible authors, include current research, be thorough in explanation of the topic, and balanced in providing different points of view. Avoid self-published websites, blogs, and newsletters. A minimum of two pages should be written about each subtheme. For more information on citation of sources using APA format, see the Purdue University's Online Writing Lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. Keep your focus on the content you are dealing with in the unit, not activities. This is the most important part of the paper and should be very complete.

The final page should include a list of resources you used in explaining the content of your unit, listed in alphabetical order by author. For more information on the creation of an APA style reference list, see the Purdue University's Online Writing Lab at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. Examples of how you would list books and periodicals using the style recommended by the American Psychological Association, sixth edition:

Books

Ritchie, S. (2009). *Follow that map! A first book of mapping skills*. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press.

Professional Journal Articles

Siebert, M. T & Willetts, M. C. (2000). Changing family forms. *Social Education*, 64, 42-47.

Web Sites

U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). *Census Bureau reports families with children increasingly face unemployment*. Retrieved from http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/families_households/cb10-08.html

Nonperiodical Web Document, Web Page, or Report

Gigon, A. (2011, November 6). *Children of China: Realizing children's rights in China*. Retrieved from <http://www.humanium.org/en/china/>

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Proficient	Basic	Minimal
Provided a complete definition of the topic, including important concepts and ideas. Defined vocabulary in student-friendly language. (2 points)	Provided a definition of the topic, but neglected to explain all important concepts and ideas. Vocabulary is either missing or not explained in student-friendly language. (1point)	Provided a very incomplete definition of the topic and omitted a number of important concepts and ideas. Vocabulary is not defined. (0 points)
Developed a convincing rationale for teaching the content, including the central focus, overall purpose, and why the topic is important for students. An explanation is provided for how the school district social studies benchmarks will help students learn facts, concepts, different interpretations of the topic, and develop skills in interpreting, analyzing, and making arguments about important social studies ideas. (2 points)	Developed a rationale for teaching the content by including the central focus, overall purpose, and why the topic is important for students. The school district social studies benchmarks are included, but no explanation for how they will help students learn facts, concepts, different interpretations of the topic, and develop skills in interpreting, analyzing, and making arguments about important social studies ideas. (1 point)	Developed a very weak rationale for teaching the topic by omitting the central focus, purpose, and importance of the topic for students. The school district social studies benchmarks and how they will help students learn facts, concepts, different interpretations of the topic, and develop skills in interpreting, analyzing, and making arguments about important social studies ideas are missing. (0 points)
Thoroughly explained all content subtopics with main concepts, ideas, and interpretations, and supporting facts. (7 points)	Thoroughly explained most content subtopics with main concepts, ideas, interpretations, and supporting facts, but could have elaborated on at least one subtopic. (5 points)	Explained the main concepts, ideas, interpretations, and supporting facts for at least one subtopic, but could have elaborated on at least two subtopics. (3 points)
Used reliable sources, cited them accurately in the body of the paper, and created an accurate, complete resource list using the APA style. (2 points)	Most sources were reliable, cited accurately in the body of the paper, and included a resource list, but not all sources were included and/or followed the APA style. (1 point)	Neglected to use reliable sources, cite sources, or cite them accurately in the body of the paper and either did not include a resource list or omitted many sources and did not follow the APA style. (0 points)
Wrote in complete sentences with accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation throughout the paper. (2 points)	Wrote in complete sentences with accurate spelling, grammar, and punctuation for most of the paper, but also wrote a few incomplete and/or run-on sentences with a few spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors. (1 point)	Wrote a number of incomplete and/or run-on sentences with numerous spelling, grammar, and/or punctuation errors. (0 points)

Student Evaluation:

Teacher Evaluation: