

Abby Wegner
Dr. Browne
EDUC 340
2 May 2016

Philosophy

Social studies can be a difficult subject to teach because children do not always want to pay attention to things that do not apply to them. At the same time, social studies cannot be ignored because in order to have informed, contributing citizens, one needs to be educated on the past. That is why, in nearly every lesson, teachers need to be able to apply the content to the students' lives and help them make connections. It is important to develop students' interests in social studies so that they can be contributing and functioning members of society. This will allow them to make educated decisions that affect their own lives and that of others.

Younger grades should be taught social studies through real life scenarios. These grades focus on topics such as people that help our societies (mailmen, police, and fire fighters), the purpose of laws, and basic geography skills. Students might also learn some simple facts about their state and country. All of these can be taught through things the child would see on almost a daily basis. This can be done by bringing in mailmen or policemen and having the students ask them questions. The purpose of laws can be taught through something as simple as discussing rules that the students' parents have put in place for them to follow. Teaching these in an applicable way that interests them, will set a positive outlook on their more advanced social studies classes as they get older.

For older students, material should still be made applicable to them. This can be done through applying historical events to current events or how the results of a historic event affected how things are done today. Another way to make a lesson impactful is through having the students dramatize events or concepts. Students could act out a historic court case and see if they come to

the same results as others had. They could also act out specific types of governments so that they see how each form of government works. All of these keeps students engaged through the lessons and encourages them to maintain a positive outlook on the rest of their social studies career. The long term goal of these classes is to create contributing members of society.