

Thesis ALIVE! Bringing Writing to Life in the Social Studies Classroom

| LESSON IDEAS | | | | | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------|
| Thesis Writing Workshop | | | | | |
| LEGOland Students physically build thesis statements out of LEGO bricks – one word is written on each brick. For scaffolding, teacher can provide thesis stems to students. | Thesis CSI Using three pieces of provided evidence, students craft a clear, concise thesis statement. For scaffolding, teacher can provide thesis stems to students. | Pick the Best Students choose the best thesis statement from given pairs, collecting a piece of a QR code each time. Upon completing all four selections, QR code pieces fit together and can be scanned for additional response via a Google Form. | Map It Students break thesis statements down into key components by diagramming them into the graphic organizer. | Rewrite It Using a Google Form, students choose three weak thesis statements and rewrite each one into a stronger statement using clear and concise language. This could also easily be done on paper. | |
| Thesis Generator | | | | | |
| Using an Excel-based thesis generator, students complete a graphic organizer which then puts their thesis into an essay format, offering guided comments to take students through their writing. The generator also includes an editing checklist for students. | | | Using personal white boards, students write out the components of their thesis statement and then physically reorganize them into an essay format. Teachers can add targeted comments on the white boards to help support students as they write. | | |
| Thesis Grab Bags & Evidence Envelopes | | | | | |
| Students often have a difficult time picking a topic to write about or researching the topic. This activity solves that problem by giving them the materials they need to form a thesis statement, allowing them to focus on writing a thesis statement based on the evidence in the bag (or the envelope for older students). Teachers can then ask students to write a thesis essay based on their statement. | | | | | |
| Goldilocks and the Three Bears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the children’s book • A porridge recipe • Legal definition of “trespass” • State legislative code for “trespass” • Small porridge bowl • Blanket | The Three Little Pigs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of the children’s book • How-to page on building a brick wall • Floor plan of a small house • Straw, sticks, brick | The Boston Tea Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline of Boston Tea Party events • Primary source news story • Painting of the event • The Tea Act of 1773 • Tea cup • Tea bags | Voter Age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket Constitution • Youth Voting infographic • Voting Statistics by Age • News Articles • Topic Overview | Local Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Board of Supervisors information • Map of Supervisor Districts • County Government Organizational Chart • Local codes • Economic and demographic statistics | |
| Using Images to Make an Argument | | | | | |
| Based on four photos from the Dust Bowl, students will write a thesis statement. | | | Based on five photos from the World War II homefront, students will write a thesis statement. | | |
| Treasure Hunt | | | | | |
| Go on a thesis hunt: Using a graphic organizer, students find something in their daily life that they can turn into an argument and then build a thesis. This could be something about rules at home, rules at school, opinions about sports or particular school subjects, etc. Younger students could hunt for a thesis in their classroom. | | | | | |

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Notes

For more information, please visit our web site:

<http://thesisalive.weebly.com>