



Social Studies Signal

August 2020

Updates from the Ohio Department of Education

New learning series: *Teaching in Uncertain Times*

The Ohio Department of Education's Office of Learning and Instructional Strategies is hosting a three-day professional learning series, titled *Teaching in Uncertain Times*, on Aug. 11-13, 2020. Sessions will focus on the Community of Inquiry framework and its three Social, Cognitive and Teaching Presences (Garrison, Anderson & Archer, 2000).

Participants are encouraged to attend all three days of the learning series. Certificates of attendance and contact hours are available for attendees. Each session description contains information to join the session. [View the session agendas and descriptions here.](#)

Please note that some sessions will be in the Microsoft Teams Live format. If you have not yet attended a Teams Live event, please review the [Participant Q&A](#) prior to attending.

Recordings of Dr. Tyson's Virtual Meetups on Race and Racism

Recordings of virtual meetups about race and racism, hosted by the Ohio Department of Education's social studies team and led by Dr. Cynthia Tyson, can be accessed from the [Social Studies Resources](#) webpage.

The two virtual meetups can help educators understand race and racism in the United States today and how to create tools to use in their classrooms to discuss race and racism.

- **Race and Racism: Developing a Personal Understanding of Race and Racism**
This session provided an introduction to race and racism and was presented to educators interested in learning about and teaching about race and racism in their classrooms. Dr. Tyson answered questions for educators about discussing race and racism in the classroom. View the recorded session [here](#).
- **Teaching About Racism: Assembling a Teachers' Toolkit**
This session will help teachers create a toolkit of skills that can be used to teach about race and racism in their classrooms. It is designed for educators who want to teach about race and racism but need more background information, resources and confidence to teach these topics. Watch for the recording to be posted to the [website](#) soon.

Upcoming Virtual Meetups

Links for these meetups will be posted [here](#).

Session 101: Basic tools for Remote Learning in your classroom Tuesday, August 18, 3:30

This session will provide an overview of the four main tools teachers should master to provide engaging content online during remote learning. Topics of discussion will be screen capture software, virtual meeting places, visual teaching tools, and video tools. The session will have resource links to tutorials for all tools mentioned and all will have a "Free" option for participants.



Session 201: Advanced online tools for Remote Learning in your classroom Thursday, August 20, at 3:30

This session will overview and provide examples of more free products (some have paid options for more services) that take remote learning up a notch or two. This session will explore how teachers can build and create engaging projects to excite students in a remote environment and see how students can build with these tools to create proof of content learning – in no traditional ways. As with Session 101, tutorials will be provided for all topics addressed, these could, but are not limited to: Peardeck, Thinklink, My Maps, Google Earth Projects, and VR projects.

Standards and Assessment Updates

All Ohio educators should implement the new social studies standards and model curriculum this school year. The American history and government assessments will be aligned to the new standards. Currently, the end-of-course exams are scheduled to take place as they typically do in a school setting. The legislature would have to change current laws to extend the exemption for end-of-course exams or change the way in which they are administered.

Assessment Updates

- The half-length [practice tests](#) have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio's Learning Standards for American History and American Government. Practice tests allow students to become familiar with the online test environment by showcasing the different item types, tools and features, and functionality available to students during online testing.
- The [Practice Test Scoring Guides](#) also have been updated for American history and American government. The Practice Test Scoring Guides provide answer keys and scoring guidance for each social studies test.
- The American history and American government [Test Specifications](#) provide an overview of the structure and content of each test. This overview includes a description of the test design, as well as information on the types of items that will appear on the tests.
- The [Test Blueprints](#) for Ohio's State Tests for Social Studies have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio's Learning Standards for American History and American Government. Test blueprints serve as guides for test construction and provide an outline of the content and skills to be measured on the tests.
- The [Performance Level Descriptors](#) (PLDs) have been updated to reflect the 2018 Ohio's Learning Standards for American History and American Government.

Other Opportunities

Mock Trial Conference

In the true spirit of 2020, Mock Trial fall professional development is going to look a bit different than years past. With the Law and Citizenship Conference changing shape (more details to come in 2021), this conference will kick off the fall professional development offerings. This one-day conference will be held virtually on Sept. 28, 2020 and is open to high school and middle school teachers and legal advisors.

Attendees may choose between an introductory track or a “deep dive” track. The introductory track will split into high school and middle school breakout sessions, while the “deep dive” track will combine advisors from both grade levels to focus on mock trial-specific skills. As an added bonus, anyone who purchases the High School Mock Trial Case File will receive free conference registration! Please contact Danielle Wilmot (dwilmot@ocltre.org) with any questions.

Agenda: The agenda and registration for this event are forthcoming.

Location: Zoom (meeting information will be emailed to registrants before the conference)

Cost: FREE with purchase of High School Mock Trial Case File; OR \$25 members, \$70 nonmembers

We the People Summer Institute

Congratulations to all teachers who participated in the 2020 *We the People* Summer Institute! In early July, 11 middle- and high-school teachers and four mentor teachers from across the state joined with the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education (OCLRE) to connect with fellow educators, gain strategies for teaching American history and government, and learn the *We the People* program. Teachers also participated in simulated legislative hearings at the conclusion of the institute, working in small groups to produce outstanding prepared statements and compelling follow-up conversations. Thank you to all the teachers who helped to make the 2020 institute a success! To learn more about the *We the People* program, contact Kelly Masterson at kmasterson@ocltre.org.

Japanese American History: Resources and Reflections About Japanese American Internment During World War II

The [Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages](#) site is a place where Japanese Americans who were interred during World War II and their descendants can learn, reflect and share their experiences of internment. The site features primary source maps of the camps, videos interviews with those who were interred, and general information about the camps.

Korematsu v. United States

The [Fred T. Korematsu Institute](#) tells the story of Fred Korematsu, who was 23 at the time that Executive Order 9066 sent Japanese Americans to internment camps. He fought internment, was arrested and his case eventually went to the Supreme Court who ruled against him. In the 1980s, his case was re-opened and eventually dismissed, with an apology from the U.S. government to not just Mr. Korematsu but all Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps. The site has free [curriculum resources](#) and [educational programs](#).

Stanford History Education Group Free Educator Workshops

The Stanford History Education Group is presenting two free virtual workshops for educators in August. [Registration and further information](#) are available here. Stanford History Education Group lessons are based on using inquiry and primary sources. Its website has many resources for both American and world history.

Resources

Teaching About Race from Teaching Tolerance

[Let's Talk About It!](#) is Teaching Tolerance's guide for facilitating critical and sometimes difficult conversations with students.



iCivics: Roadmap for Teaching Controversial Topics

iCivics presents resources for teaching difficult or controversial topics in the classroom. The [Roadmap](#) helps educators create a setting for respectfully discussing topics that may be polarizing in the classroom.

Free Resources from the Federal Reserve Board

The Federal Reserve Board is building a bridge to help the U.S. economy recover from the challenges created by the COVID-19 shutdown. The Federal Reserve's actions are complex, but its [new infographic series](#) is not. This resource *conversationally* describes what the Federal Reserve is doing and why.

These pieces explain, in plain English, the Federal Reserve's:

- Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility;
- Municipal Liquidity Facility;
- Main Street Lending Program;
- Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility; and
- Primary Market Corporate Credit Facility.

Facing History Resources

Facing History works to help schools and teachers eliminate racism. Below are resources to help teachers as they head back to school:

- [Resources for teachers during COVID](#);
- [Teaching about Current Events](#);
- [Teaching about racism in the aftermath of George Floyd](#);
- Back-to-school [professional development](#).

AllSides Media Bias Chart: Version 2 | Updated Media Bias Ratings

The AllSides Media Bias Chart helps users easily identify different perspectives so they can get the full picture and think for themselves. Knowing the political bias of media outlets can help media consumers avoid manipulation and fake news.

Skills: Checking the Facts—Debunking Fake News: Irish Slave Narrative

Making the rounds again as a viral story is the narrative that Irish also were brought to America as slaves. This story often is shared as a way to downplay the true slave narrative of slaves brought to America. The following are sites that can help debunk the story:

Irish historian and librarian, Liam Hogan, debunks Irish slave history in this article:

<https://medium.com/@Limerick1914/all-of-my-work-on-the-irish-slaves-meme-2015-16-4965e445802a>

The Journal is an Irish publication that fact-checked the statements:

<https://www.thejournal.ie/irish-slaves-indentured-servants-5134100-Jun2020/>

Find an article from *Pacific Standard* here: <https://psmag.com/social-justice/the-irish-were-not-slaves>



Is It Real? How to Fact Check Photos and Stories Online

The internet is the main source of news and insights for many. But can you believe everything you read or every image you see? Images are easy to manipulate to promote a story. Teach students how to fact check the images and stories they see online with the following sources:

- [TinEye](#);
- [Lead Stories](#);
- [Google's Reverse Image Search](#);
- [Snopes](#).

If using Google, reverse check images in one of these two ways:

- 1) In a Chrome browser, hover over the image and right click (or "control" click on a Mac). Select "Search Google for Image," and all the places the photo shows up with descriptions will be listed.

OR

- 2) In any browser, right click the photo and select "Copy Image Address." Go to images.google.com, click on the camera icon in the search bar, then paste the image address.

Send comments/questions to:

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