

Social Studies Grading Criteria for Projects

News Reports

Checklist

Requirement(s)	Completed (YES)	Completed (NO)
One complete story on a current event shared		
At least three (3) facts stated		
Importance of event explained		
Graphics/Visuals Included		
Introduction & Conclusion included		
Shared to Group Broadcast on time		
Script prepared & used in presentation		

Five Discipline Notes (5DNs)

Content	Descriptor(s)	
Excellent	All five disciplines discussed (thoroughly); each with at least one fact and an explanation of importance to self and/or others	
Good	All five disciplines discussed; each with at least one fact and an explanation of importance to self and/or others.	
Average	All five disciplines lightly discussed; with some explanation of importance to self and/or others.	
Attempted	Some of the five disciplines are discussed, with some explanation of importance to self and/or others.	
Not Evident	No inclusion of facts nor explanations of importance to self and/or others; or not completed.	

Mechanics	Descriptor(s)	
Excellent	Extremely well written (grammar; punctuation; spelling; capitalization; six writing traits) and engaging.	
Good	Well written (grammar; punctuation; spelling; capitalization; six writing traits).	
Average	Some issues with mechanics(grammar; punctuation; spelling; capitalization; six traits of writing) take away from the effectiveness of the overall product.	
Attempted	Many issues with mechanics (grammar; punctuation; spelling; capitalization; six traits of writing) severely hinder the effectiveness of the final product.	
Not Evident	No attempt made.	

Creative Project

Creative projects may be assigned as open-themed (student choice) or as a closed, unit project (based upon subject matter discussed in class) meant to demonstrate the student's understanding of material(s) covered in our Social Studies Class. Each person works with the knowledge and information they receive and molds it into something they can better understand or relate with. *This is the second of our Social Studies Class goals*

Project Requirements:

An awesome project will:

- Show evidence of effort
 - Demonstration of artistic craftsmanship;
 - Application of Art Principles and Elements
 - At least four values
 - Some attention to Space and/or Balance
 - Some attention to at least two other principles and elements of Art.
 - Apparent or explained symbolism.
 - Evidence of rehearsal (dramatizations, presentations, etc.)
- Demonstrate an understanding of subject matter...WHY or HOW it is important and/or interesting to self and/or others.
 - Explains the importance of the subject matter to self and/or others.
 - Provides a connection to the individual's understanding of the subject matter
 - A purpose or message communicated in the project (overt or covert).
- Make an impact upon the audience
 - Some connection to the audience is made; creates discourse; etc.

Creative License: Think outside the box... use your talents to wow the classroom (to include):

- Musical Performance
- Dramatic Performance
- Recital of Poetry
- Dance Performance
- Artistic Creation
- Technological Presentation
- News Broadcast
- Written Project; Slideshow; Poster Presentation
- Five Geographic Themes Report

Projects are individual performances. If two or more students wish to integrate their projects together, they may, as long as each performance could stand alone, and you have received prior teacher approval (not at the moment of presentation). You may also enlist the services of other people, IE: actors in your personally written script, but their performance doesn't count for their own individual project, it only enhances your project.

Writing Projects

Requirements:

- Introduction: A broad or general idea that narrows down to a specific idea, and Introduces all items to be expressed in the body of text
- Body of Text: Includes an explanation as to the importance to self and/or others of the information, and Includes at least three facts presented in class or from out-of-class sources.
- Proper citation (MLA) for all information reported
- Conclusion: A summary of all information outlined in the introduction and expressed in the body of the text, which expands from specific to general ideas.
- Writing Conventions

RUBRIC	6 Exemplary	5 Strong	4 Proficient	3 Developing	2 Emerging	1 Beginning
Organization √ Structure √ Introduction √ Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effectively organized in logical and creative manner ▪ Creative and engaging intro and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong order and structure ▪ Inviting intro and satisfying conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organization is appropriate but conventional ▪ Attempt at introduction and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts at organization; may be a list of events ▪ Beginning and ending not developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow ▪ Missing or weak intro and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of coherence; confusing ▪ No identifiable introduction or conclusion
Ideas & Content √ Main Theme √ Supporting Details √ Cited Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail: three or more facts and citations; plus importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear, focused, interesting ideas with appropriate detail: three or more facts and citations; plus importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited: three or more facts and citations; plus importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main idea may be cloudy because supporting detail is too general or even off topic: three or more facts and citations; plus importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose and main idea may be unclear and cluttered by irrelevant detail ▪ One fact and source citation and some discussion of importance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lacks central idea; development is minimal or non-existent ▪ No facts nor source citations
Sentence Fluency √ Rhythm, Flow √ Variety √ Paragraph Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High degree of craftsmanship ▪ Effective variation in sentence patterns ▪ Exceptional and creative transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easy flow & rhythm ▪ Good variety in length and structure ▪ Strong transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally in control ▪ Lacks variety in length and structure ▪ Good transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some awkward constructions ▪ Many similar patterns and beginnings ▪ Some transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Often choppy ▪ Monotonous sentence patterns ▪ Frequent run-on sentences ▪ Missing or weak transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficult to follow or read aloud ▪ Disjointed, confusing ▪ No evidence of transitions
Conventions √ Appropriate spelling, capitalization, and grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exceptionally strong control of the standard conventions writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong control of writing conventions ▪ Errors are few and minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control of most writing conventions ▪ Occasional errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited control of conventions, frequent errors that do not interfere with understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Frequent, significant errors impede readability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numerous errors that distract the reader and make the text difficult to read

Slideshow & Poster Project Rubric

RUBRIC	6 Exemplary	5 Strong	4 Proficient	3 Developing	2 Emerging	1 Beginning
Organization ✓ <i>Structure</i> ✓ <i>Introduction</i> ✓ <i>Conclusion</i> ✓ <i>Script Attached</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively organized in logical and creative manner Creative and engaging intro and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong order and structure Inviting intro and satisfying conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization is appropriate but conventional Attempt at introduction and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempts at organization; may be a list of events Beginning and ending not developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow Missing or weak intro and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of coherence; confusing No identifiable introduction or conclusion
Ideas & Content ✓ <i>Main Theme</i> ✓ <i>Supporting Details</i> ✓ <i>Information</i> ✓ <i>Slides & Graphics</i> ✓ <i>Cited Sources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail and information Three or more facts and source citations Three or more slides or graphics per section of presentation * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear, focused, interesting ideas and information with appropriate detail Three or more facts and source citations Three or more slides or graphics per section of presentation* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited Three or more facts and source citations Three or more slides or graphics per section of presentation* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main idea may be cloudy because supporting detail is too general or even off topic Two facts and source citations Two slides or graphics per section of presentation* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose and main idea may be unclear and cluttered by irrelevant detail One fact and source citation One slide or graphic per section of presentation* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks central idea; development is minimal or non-existent No facts nor source citations Some sections not covered or don't have slides nor graphics*
Sentence Fluency ✓ <i>Rhythm, Flow</i> ✓ <i>Variety</i> ✓ <i>Paragraph Transitions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High degree of craftsmanship Effective variation in sentence patterns Exceptional & creative transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy flow & rhythm Good variety in length and structure Strong transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally in control Lacks variety in length and structure Good transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some awkward constructions Many similar patterns and beginnings Some transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often choppy Monotonous sentence patterns Frequent run-on sentences Missing or weak transitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to follow or read aloud Disjointed, confusing No evidence of transitions
Conventions ✓ Appropriate spelling, capitalization, and grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptionally strong control of the standard conventions of writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong control of conventions of writing Errors are few and minor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of most writing conventions Occasional errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited control of conventions, frequent errors that do not interfere with understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent, significant errors impede readability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous errors that distract the reader and make the text difficult to read

NOTE(s): *= Graphics not required for the introduction and conclusion to a poster project only.

Art Projects

One Art Project is assigned each quarter, based upon the subject matter studied in class. This is an independent project...no group projects. Here are the projects for this school year:

Class	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR
6th Grade	2D/3D Project Ziggurat Pyramid Burial Mask Cave Art	2D/3D Project Greek or Roman Shield Greco-Roman Building Greek Vase Trojan Horse	2D/3D Project Coat of Arms Chain Mail/Armor Medieval Shield Copy of Renaissance Masterpiece	2D/3D Project Ship Model Spanish Mission Aztec/Mayan temple Aztec/Mayan Calendar
7th Grade	2D/3D Project Coat of Arms Chain Mail/Armor Medieval Shield	Copy of Renaissance Masterpiece Ship Model Spanish Mission Aztec/Mayan temple Aztec/Mayan Calendar	2D/3D Project Monticello The Alamo Journals/Sketches from Lewis & Clark Expedition	2D or 3D Civil War Battle Map Railroad Engine Maps of Cattle Trails Branding Iron Diorama of a gunfight or battle; Canon; Fictional journal
8th Grade	2D or 3D Project Civil War Battle Map Railroad Engine Maps of Cattle Trails Branding Iron Diorama of a gunfight or battle; Canon; Fictional journal	2D/3D Project Word Art: US Constitution Preamble; Bill of Rights; Declaration of Independence; Model of the White House or Capitol Building	2D/3D Project Fictional journal Railroad Engine Maps of Cattle Trails Branding Iron Diorama of a gunfight	2D/3D Project Harlem Renaissance Poetry Jazz Boom & Bust

Project Requirements:

An awesome project will:

- Demonstration of artistic craftsmanship;
 - Application of Art Elements & Principles
 - Value: At least four values
 - Color: Use of color or the intended absence of color;
 - Hot-Warm-Cool-Cold Color Scheme
 - 4 color palette (minimum or foundation of colors)
 - Balance: Consideration of balance in the final product.
 - Some attention to at least two other Elements and Principles of Art
 - Elements: Line; Shape; Form; Space; Texture; Value; Color
 - Principles: Repetition; Emphasis; Variety; Economy; Rhythm; Balance
 - Apparent or explained symbolism.
 - Well crafted final product: clean, neat craftsmanship
- Demonstrate an understanding of subject matter...WHY or HOW it is important to self and/or others.
 - Explains the importance of the subject matter to self and/or others
 - Provides a connection to the individual's understanding of the subject matter
 - A purpose or message is communicated through the art (overt or covert).
- Make an impact upon the audience with the overall product
 - Some connection to the audience is made; creates discourse; etc.
 - Presented on time (due date)

Social Studies

Cereal Box Project

Students will create a Cereal Box showcasing a country selected by them. Each box will include:

Box Cover ("title") This will be located on the front and on one of the sides of the cereal box like a book spine.

- Country Name
- Logo
 - Country's Flag
 - Some Identifying Feature(s)
- Fictional Cereal Company Name
- Capital City

Ingredients (Demographics) Probably best located on the second small side of the box.

At least seven of the following:

- Population
- Ethnicity Percentages
- Languages
- Gender Breakdown
- Age Group Percentages (children; young adults; middle age; old, etc)
- Educational Level Breakdown
- Sports
- Recreation
- Unemployment Rate
- Gross National Product (GNP)
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Individual Wages (breakdown of averages)
- Import/Export Status
- Major products and goods produced in the country (at least 5)
- Urban and Rural Populations
- Life Expectancy (male and female)
- Literacy Rate

Nutrition Facts: Best located on the back of the box.

- Land and Water Features (at least three each)
- Climate Zones within the country
- Place: At least three things unique to the country alone, such as Mount Rushmore in the USA.

✓ **LEARNING SUMMARY SLIDESHOW:** SLIDESHOW THAT ILLUSTRATES FIVE INTERESTING OR IMPORTANT FACTS OR IDEAS YOU LEARNED THIS QUARTER IN CLASS.

Mechanics	Score	Descriptor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Text included in the slideshow (embedded with the slides or attached as a final script) with a demonstration of... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grammar ○ Spelling ○ Capitalization ○ Six Writing Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ideas ■ Organization ■ Voice ■ Word Choice ■ Sentence Fluency ■ Conventions 	5 4 3 2 1 0	Awesome (Extra Credit) Strong Proficient Developing Emerging Incomplete
Content	Score	Descriptor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conveys the importance of the subject matter. Why is/was this important to self and/or others? ● Additional Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least five key facts summarized or explained as to their correlation to the five Social Studies Disciplines.** 	5 4 3 2 1 0	Awesome (Extra Credit) Strong Proficient Developing Emerging Incomplete
Visual	Score	Descriptor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least one graphic (lettering) per slide ● At least one visual (picture) per slide ● Some type of animation included (fly in; dissolve, appear; motion; etc.) ● Slides add to the overall presentation 	5 4 3 2 1 0	Awesome (Extra Credit) Strong Proficient Developing Emerging Incomplete
Due Date	Score	Descriptor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chosen assignment turned in. 	4 3 2	On time One day late Two or more days late

FIVE GEOGRAPHIC THEMES REPORT (5GTR)

Slideshow or Poster Presentation

Your finished product::

- Introduction: An introduction which goes from broad to specific and lists the five themes you're going to explain..
- Location:
 - Physical Location: Specify continent, longitude/latitude, hemisphere, etc.
 - Climate or temperate zone(s)
 - Land Features and/or Water Features
- Place: Three unique things found in your geographic area..
- Region: Three things/characteristics that other similar areas share with your area..
- Movement: Three people/animals/plants that have migrated to or away from your area.
- HEI: Human Environment Interaction: Three ways in which people adapted to the environment found in your area...adaptations made to the environment in order to survive.
- Conclusion- A conclusion which goes from the specific focus (area) of your report back to the broad beginning of your introduction, including a brief summary of the information you shared in your report and listed in your introduction. The importance of your information should be stressed here if not already included in your report.
- Turned in on Time
- Craftsmanship/Art Work
 - At least three graphics for each of the five themes.
 - Powerful graphics that add to the presentation
 - Clean, organized, demonstrating effort.
- Mechanics (Script)
 - Strong control of mechanics (spelling, capitalization, grammar, etc.
 - Six Traits of Writing

Social Studies Project Rubric

Based upon the listed criteria...

Starting Point	Starting Grade
Final product met or addressed all criteria	B
Final product met or addressed most criteria	C
Final product met or addressed few of the criteria	D

Enhancements or Detractors

Your starting grade will either go up or down depending upon how well you addressed and/or completed each of the following categories:

Category	Description
Art Work	Your artwork should add to or enhance your final product. Did you: incorporate the Elements and Principles of Art; and use basic 2D design concepts? Did your artistic craftsmanship enhance your project? Did your images and graphics upgrade your project?
Symbolism	Symbolism should be included in every project. This may be overt or covert. This should add to or enhance your final project. Universal symbolism may be used to draw attention to; illustrate; or identify the importance of the subject matter to self and others. Symbolism clarifies or amplifies your purpose/message. Explains why you choose to do this project in this manner.
Content	This is the subject matter you are presenting to your audience. Basically, what is the information, and why is it important or interesting enough to share. The information must be accurate and relevant to the subject.
Mechanics	Your writing. Focus on the Six Traits of Writing. Your writing should only enhance your presentation. Bad writing takes away from your overall product. All projects require writing, either embedded in the project, or on a script. Please...no cut and paste.
Effort	There should be a demonstration of effort in your final project: attention to detail; careful craftsmanship; apparent rehearsal; a prepared script, etc. Your audience should be able to recognize the effort you put into this project. This is sort of the "wow" part, or reaction to your presentation.

- Descriptors of your enhancements or detractors (best to worst):
 - Powerful
 - Proficient
 - Adequate
 - Developing
 - (Beginning/Start Point)
 - Minor
 - Apparent
 - Prominent
 - Destructive