

# The POINT!

E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators  
Vol. 12 No. 5  
May 2019

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## THIS IS SPECIAL!

Please Check this out. Great materials.

### Vietnam War & Iraq War Initiative

Today the grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans are attending middle and high schools throughout America, sitting side-by-side with the children of those who served more recently in Desert Storm and the Iraq War. But how much do they really know about these conflicts and the sacrifices their dads, moms and grandparents proudly made?

Joining with social studies departments throughout the Country, the Veterans National Education Program (V-NEP) believes it is time to teach the lessons of these wars in the classroom. During the 2018-2019 school year, V-NEP will provide teachers with a free, collection of video clips and classroom lesson plans designed to support up to a 10-day learning experience. Our series of short video clips will bring history to life for students through expert interviews and highly visual, archival footage highlighting key events during Desert Storm and the Vietnam and Iraq Wars.

[Supporters for the Vietnam & Iraq War Films & Lessons Initiative](#)

### V-NEP - Vietnam War & Iraq War Initiative Webinar

In this brief webinar, learn about the Veterans National Educational Program (V-NEP) and how we support teachers in the classroom by providing relevant content. This webinar specifically highlights the content and lessons around the similarities between Vietnam & Iraq and lessons learned from both.

For more information, please visit our website.

[v-nep.org/in-the-classroom/vietnam-war-iraq-war-initiative/](http://v-nep.org/in-the-classroom/vietnam-war-iraq-war-initiative/)

Comments are disabled.

[V-NEP - Vietnam War & Iraq War Initiative Webinar](#) (~25 minutes)



### ALSO..Plan a visit to the History Center!

### The Vietnam War: 1945-1975

### Heinz History Center

April 13 to September 22, 2019

This groundbreaking exhibition developed by the New York Historical Society examines the causes, progression, and consequences of one of the most controversial events of the 20th century. *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975* examines how the divisive war challenged democracy and the foundations of American life.



## Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.

### *Civil War History & Reading Camp*

August 5-9, 2019

Grades 5-8 (2019-2020 School Year)

Fun activities

Listening & singing songs from the era.

Reading stories and using primary sources

Arts & Crafts activities

Full Day 9-3 \$200 or Half day Option 9-12. \$100

The Education Dept. 412.621.4253 Tim Neff x 219

<http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/education.html>



## NCSS Summer Institute -- Woodstock at 50: The 1960s & the Transformation of American Society

In collaboration with Steven Van Zandt's Rock and Roll Forever Foundation, participants will garner classroom-ready techniques, concepts and free curriculum resources for further use. Historian, author, and longtime Grateful Dead publicist, Dennis McNally, will serve as Scholar in Residence, sharing from his deep research of the post-war Bay Area "Beat" and "Hippy" scenes, as well as his work connecting race and popular culture from Mark Twain to the present. Educators will also have an opportunity to earn credit through Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Department of History. [Learn more.](#)



## Teacher Opportunities

This three-day educator institute accompanies the History Center's current exhibition, The Vietnam War: 1945-1975, on display at the History Center from April 13 to September 22. Educators will dive deep into the history of the Vietnam War to explore the breadth of the conflict, from the doctrine of Communist containment that spurred US involvement to the capitulation of Saigon in 1975.

The era will be brought to life for teachers through the use of objects from the New-York Historical Society, the History Center, and local Vietnam veterans, as well as archival documents, personal journals, newspaper accounts, and oral histories. The program will focus on content, with curators and guest speakers, and strategies for teaching the Vietnam War in the classroom, including techniques for deliberation, object handling, and primary source analysis. Each day will also include time for skills sharing and lesson planning with fellow educators.

**Register**



# The Point

For

Western Pennsylvania  
Social Studies Educators

EDITORS

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*The Point* is the  
e-newsletter

of the former WPCSS  
issued monthly via e-mail.

WPCSS was a non-profit 501c  
organization dedicated to promoting  
the teaching and learning of social  
studies in Western Pennsylvania

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## Local Perspectives on the Vietnam War

**Grade Levels:** 9-12 • **Program Length:** 1.5 hours • **Cost:** \$8 per student

Visit *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975* exhibition as part of this education program for high school students and explore stories from local people who lived through and experienced the war. As part of the exhibit, the History Center has collected stories of local servicemen and women, combat veterans, medics and military support staff, and protestors and civil rights activists. Using facilitated discussions and interactive activities in the exhibit, students will contemplate, compare, and contrast these varied experiences to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of the Vietnam War era.

To book this program, please contact Amanda McAllen at [aemcallen@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:aemcallen@heinzhistorycenter.org).

More than 300 artifacts, photographs, artworks, documents, films, and interactive digital media help to convey the story, including media installations on the 1968 Tet Offensive and 1970 Cambodia Campaign, a Jeep used at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, a copy of the Pentagon Papers, personal items left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and specially commissioned murals by contemporary artist Matt Huynh.

The exhibit also includes stories of contributions made by Western Pennsylvanians to the war and the conflicts it raised here in the region.

## Ways to Integrate Writing in Social Studies Classes

In schools, all of us need to be writing teachers, including those of us who teach social studies. This series will explore specific ways to integrate writing in social studies classes.

In addition to the ideas discussed by contributors to this two-part series, you might also want to explore [The Best Resources For Writing In Social Studies Classes](#), [The Best Scaffolded Writing Frames For Students](#), and previous columns appearing here on [Writing Instruction](#) and on [Teaching Social Studies](#).

## Report lists skills the class of 2030 will need

The education system must change in three key ways if the class of 2030 -- today's kindergartners -- are to succeed in the workplace, according to results from a report conducted by Microsoft. Schools should focus on social and emotional learning, personalized instruction and using technologies such as artificial intelligence and collaborative platforms, the report finds.

*It's not the load that breaks you down. It's the way you carry it.*  
*Lou Holtz, football coach and analyst*





### [How Mexican border closure would affect students](#)

President Donald Trump's suggestion that he may close the US-Mexican border could have implications for children and schools. Many students attending schools near the border are US citizens but live with their families in Mexico, says Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

[Education Week \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (4/4)

### **NCSS Statement on Trump Administration's Proposed \$4.8M Cuts to History & Civics**

The recent release of the Trump Administration's FY2020 budget request once again proposes deep cuts to programs affecting social studies educators nationwide. Of direct concern is the proposed elimination of the U.S. Department of Education's K-12 American History & Civics Grants and Academies, currently funded at \$4.8 million.

([Read](#)

### **Mock Auctions. Pretending to Flee Captors. Do Simulations Have a Place in Lessons on Slavery?**

Some teachers simulate slavery in their classrooms to try to foster empathy. But in practice, many educators say, these activities can minimize horrific events, recreate racist power dynamics, and cause emotional hurt to black students. [Read more.](#)

### [What Black Educators Built](#)

Vanessa Siddle Walker, Professor of African American Educational Studies at Emory University, explores the groundwork that segregation-era black educators set for an equitable and aspirational education system for all and asks, "How can we get back to their vision?"

### [Aspiring Educators Need to Know the History of Race in America](#)

Teacher educators who want to promote anti-racist practices in schools should prioritize conversations about the country's long history with racial inequity, says two University of Michigan educators. To start this work, try podcasts and case studies to examine the past and current events that have shaped inequitable policies for students of color.

### [African-American history studied through music](#)

A class of New Jersey eighth-graders are studying the role music has played in African-American history from the time of slavery, the Harlem Renaissance and modern hip hop. With grant funding and the help of a professional percussionist, students learned how to use plastic buckets as drums and cardboard tubes to create marimbas for a performance in front of peers. [NorthJersey \(Woodland Park, N.J.\) \(free registration\)](#) (4/6

*Happiest are the people who give most happiness to others.*  
*Denis Diderot, philosopher*

## [N.J. teacher reflects on 13-year civics project](#)

It took 13 years for legislation drafted by students in New Jersey educator Stuart Wexler's Advanced Placement government and politics class to become a federal law. In this article, Wexler shares three lessons he learned from the experience, such as to shift the focus away from a grade and that persistence can pay off. [Education Dive](#) (4/10)



## ['Action Civics' Enlists Students in Hands-On Democracy](#)

An activist brand of civics instruction is gaining champions and a few critics in the nation's schools. [Read more.](#) • Citizen Z: An *Education Week* Project



## [A Bull in a China Shop': How I Went From Teaching U.S. Government to Shaping It](#)

What goes on behind all the closed doors in politics? Most teachers never get a chance to find out, writes teacher-turned-politician John Waldron. [Read more.](#)



## [Science Teachers, Be Honest About What Science Still Can't Explain](#)

The universe is full of questions waiting to be solved. So why teach science like all the discoveries have already been made? asks Alexander Bell. [Read more.](#)



## [Cross-subject projects boost student engagement](#)

Fourth-grade students at a Virginia elementary school work on projects that involve math, science, English and other subjects as part of the school's Personalized Education and Digital Learning Environment. Teachers say the cross-subject learning style has increased student engagement, and third-graders will be included in the program next year. [The Winchester Star](#) (Va.)



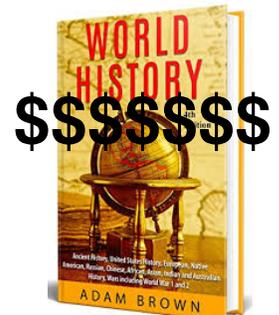
## [Why educators need to teach financial literacy](#)

Financial literacy might seem outside the skill set of a typical K-12 teacher, but schools increasingly want to ensure that students know how to navigate loans, credit cards and other financial products. Jacqueline Prester offers three tips for teaching financial literacy, including focusing on goals and connecting the skills to real-world practice. [eSchool News](#) (4/12)



## [N.C. bill offers more financial literacy, less history](#)

A bill under consideration by North Carolina lawmakers would reduce required US history classes in favor of adding a financial-literacy course. Supporters say the course is needed to educate students about subjects such as student debt, but critics say it should replace a required math course. [The News & Observer](#) (Raleigh, N.C.) (tiered subscription model) (4/12)



UNPROFESSIONAL



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## ['Deprofessionalization Is Killing the Soul of Teaching,' Union President Says](#)

The teaching profession is in the midst of an "ongoing and alarming crisis," American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten said. [Read more.](#)

## [Teachers Are Paid Less Than Similar Professionals. See the Breakdown by State](#)

An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute found that the teacher weekly wage penalty is greater than 20 percent in nearly half the states. [Read more.](#)

## [Should Teachers Be Able to Negotiate Their Own Contracts?](#)

Apr 22, 2019 - [Should Teachers Be Able to Negotiate Their Own Contracts?](#) Just over a third of teachers say they would prefer to negotiate salary and benefits for themselves, according to a newly released survey from a group that advocates for choice in union membership.

## [Students shadow government workers to learn civics](#)

A class of New Jersey eighth-grade students shadowed city government workers and convened their own mock town council meeting as part of Student Government Day activities. Students passed a resolution about installing sidewalks in parts of the community and read statements about what they were learning about government through this experience. [The New Jersey Herald \(Newton\) \(4/17\)](#)

## [How We Argue: A Workshop for Social Studies Teachers](#)

How do we discuss controversial topics? Often, it seems, we rely upon superficial research of the facts, intimidation, or appeals to emotion. In this workshop, we introduce argument mapping: a simple, powerful, research-backed method for applying logical rigor to writing and classroom discussions. Visualizing the structure of arguments makes students more precise, confident thinkers across disciplines. [Learn more and registe](#) Show Me The Evidence

I am excited to announce the date for the second biennial **Social Studies Symposium** at the *Allegheny Intermediate Unit!* Stay tuned for more information but please save the date for the morning of Tuesday, **October 22, 2019**. Our last symposium in 2017 totaled nearly 200 K-12 educators and 20 partners from around the region. This symposium is **free** for all so please plan to have your organization host a table to share your Social Studies offerings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dr. Paul Cindric, Program Director Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Education

## **Placing Primary Sources:**

### **Using Story Maps to Connect Space, Place, and Time**

All primary sources are connected to a place, space, and time. Join us to explore the geographic perspective of primary sources using dynamic multimedia Story Maps. Designed by teachers for teachers, the Placing Primary Sources Story Map collection blends the textual and digital resources of the Library of Congress to a place-based narrative. In this webinar you learn about the classroom ready story map collection and teacher materials produced by the Virginia Geographic Alliance in conjunction with the TPS Eastern Region. Free lesson plans, story maps, and tips and tricks will be shared.

