

SUPPORTING STRUGGLING MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES READERS: THE
CAPSTONE PROJECT

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Project Description

The website *Supporting Struggling Middle School Social Studies Readers* is organized into four main categories: ELA Standards + Social Studies, Before Reading, During Reading, and After Reading. The ELA Standards + Social Studies section includes background information about how standards in social studies now include Common Core's ELA standards along with content based standards in most states like Minnesota. Additionally, it describes the need for more literacy support and provides website links to the Common Core State Standards and Minnesota Social Studies Standards for teachers to reference. The other three sections of Before Reading, During Reading, and After Reading provide teachers with important knowledge about effective instructional practices during each part of the reading process. Along with literacy practices, each section includes specific strategies that could be used to help improve comprehension of social studies content. Each strategy includes a detailed description, an example when applicable, and the ELA Common Core Standard(s) that corresponds to the strategy.

The Before Reading, During Reading, and After Reading sections contain valuable instructional support for teachers to integrate literacy practices into their social studies lessons. The Before Reading section explains the importance of teaching lesson purpose, content vocabulary, prior knowledge and connections, and text features to prepare students for reading. The strategies included are Four Square, Concept of Definition Map, Timeline, Anticipation Guide, Text Feature Walk, and List, Group, Label. Next, the During Reading section describes the need for reading strategies, a carefully chosen reading method, and critical thinking as students read. Close Reading, Visualizing, Think-Aloud, Self-Questioning, Critical Literacy, and

Collaborative Read-Aloud are the strategies included within this section. Lastly, the After Reading section points out the need for additional vocabulary instruction and reflection when reading is finished. The strategies included are Categories, Word Sort, Dialogic Thinking, Discussion Web, Thinking in Right Angles, and Reciprocal Teaching. All three sections together will guide social studies teachers in creating instruction that meets the needs of all middle school readers.

In summation, the website was carefully constructed to give teachers valuable information to better meet the needs of struggling readers in middle school social studies. Each section found in the website will give teachers knowledge on literacy strategies, practices, and examples of how they can meet the Common Core ELA Standards requirements effectively. The entire capstone project was a learning experience that will not be forgotten. The website link is provided below.

Supporting Struggling Middle School Social Studies Readers

<https://meganschwartz09.wixsite.com/supportingsreaders>

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