

# Social Studies

---

MEETING THE NEEDS OF ESL LEARNERS

# Putting it in Perspective: Nan's Story

---



# Content-based Instruction

---

An (approach) designed to provide second language learners instruction in content and language.

# Core Social Studies Skills

---

- Civics and government
- US History
- Geography
- Economics

# EL Civics

---

“To effectively participate in **education**, **work**, and **civic opportunities** in this country. Immigrants and other limited English proficient persons must not only master English, but must be able to understand and navigate **governmental**, **educational**, **workplace systems** and key institutions, such as **banking and healthcare.**”

# Why Study History?

---

- It's our “window into the past”
- We use the past to understand the present, and solve present day problems
- It helps students understand current events
- History teaches us to ask questions
- It helps us understand other people & cultures
- It's FUN!

Adapted from: *Why Study History?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ3pagHPrMY>



So... What's the big deal about history?

# Lesson Planning: Where to Focus

---

- LIFE SKILLS
- BEST Plus
- Core Standards
- Citizenship skills



# BEST Plus Themes

---

Personal	Occupational	Public
Personal identification Health Family/Parenting Consumerism Housing Recreation/ Entertainment	Getting a job On the job	Civics Community services Transportation/ Directions Weather/Seasons Education

# BEST Plus Skills

<b>Clarifying Questions</b>	<b>Coordinating Conjunctions</b> (and, so, but, or)	<b>Dependent Clauses</b> (When..., If..., Because..., Although...)	<b>Elaboration</b>
<b>Adverbs</b>	<b>Compare &amp; Contrast</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<b>Summarizing</b>	<b>Organization</b> (beginning, middle, end)	<b>Embedding “WH” words:</b> (I don’t know where the keys are.)	<b>Subject/Object Pronouns</b> (or any other grammar point that affects your students’ clarity of expression )

# Go for Gain with BEST Plus

Question Type	Example	Expected Response
Picture Description	Tell me about this picture.	words, phrase(s), sentence(s), string(s) of sentences
Entry Item	I usually get the news from (the newspaper, the radio, TV). What about you?	words, phrase(s), simple sentence(s)
Yes/No Question	Do you like to watch the news on TV?	word(s), phrase(s)
Choice Question	Do you like getting the news in English or in your language?	word(s), phrase(s)
Personal Expansion	What are some ways you get the news?	sentence(s), string(s) of sentences
General Expansion	Do you think it's important to keep up with the news? Why?/Why not?	sentence(s), string(s) of sentences
Elaboration	Some people think that news reports in the United States are unreliable and show only one side of an issue. Others think that the news is accurate and unbiased. What do you think about news reports in the United States?...Tell me more.	Elaborate and organized discourse

# Citizenship Skills

---

- Lesson plans at 2 levels
- Questions & vocabulary needed to pass the test
- Flash cards and Activities

[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

“*Teaching* is a creative act and each teacher will make different decisions about what and how to teach, and which instructional resources best suit their needs.”

# Pulling it All Together

---

- Elements of every lesson:
  - Pre-teach vocabulary & concepts
  - Introduce academic language
  - Tap into prior knowledge
  - Pre-reading strategies: pictures, comprehension checks
  - Listening & Speaking: discussion, pair/group work
  - Reading & Writing: variety of text types, writing production activities

**Can you think of others?**

# Resources & Links

## Links

---

[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

[www.History.com](http://www.History.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ3pagHPrMY>

## Book List

- Citizenship, Passing the Test
- Short Lessons in U.S. History
- Core Skills in Social Studies
- Teaching Adults, An ESL Resource Book
- I Speak English

**And of course...CUNY!**