

## Reading Reflection Essay #1

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Section 600

When considering my Social Studies background, it is hard for me to recall an experience that I did not find stimulating. It seems that my mind and imagination are drawn to the integrated integrated ideas that shape both our past and present. Though I would love to believe that this deep passion for the topic was wholly entirely attributed to my interest in the subject, develop a I find that my family's colorful interaction with history increased my fondness, and helped me to develop a deep background with which to work from. Before I even stepped into a social studies classroom; my father, a history major with a passion for re-enactment, (enactment) took my sister and I to as many battlefields, cemeteries (cemeteries) and museums that he possibly could. Though at the time I had no idea how much this early experience would effect (affect) me- I began to see my interest grow the more social studies became a part of my life.

**Comment [LL1]:** A little awkward here. Could we change it to “

...help me establish a solid foundation for me to work from in social studies.

**Comment [LL2]:** Could we change this into “continue to increase (or grow)”?

The last sentence in this paragraph is a run-on sentence. I suggest you cut it into two sentences.

I began to see my interest continue to grow (increase). Social Studies became a part of my life.

When reaching the classroom setting in elementary school, I began to realize that social studies was an integrated subject, and could not wholly (wholly) depend on its historic roots. It involved social interactions, economics and political strife all rolled into one. Though my primary focus was the historic aspects, my teachers made it easy for me to embrace the other parts that made the subject whole. My favorites were the teachers who allowed an interactive side to be present in their classrooms, through ideas such as museum trips, mock-elections, and special projects. In fifth grade our teacher took us to Jamestown, VA; allowing us to explore some of the economic hardships, and how our world would be different if there had been no first settlement, or perhaps if it had been in a different location.

One of my favorite teachers was a very avid reader, and made sure to use many visual aids in her class to increase our learning experience. Her class was always activity packed, which is something I would love to transfer into my own classes. Whether it was coloring pages to help us identify revolutionary British soldiers (soldiers), or having a speaker come in and set up a civil war camp in the front of the school, she always made sure we had the most interesting learning experience possible. Though it may seem bizarre to support text with such experiences, the children in her classroom were able to spout facts in an instant due to such interactions with history. My favorite lessons were the ones where she would tell the text like it was a story. Though it may have been simple lecturing, she made me feel like I was actually there, and though I enjoyed all the activities, hearing history like it was the choice gossip of the day was nothing like I had ever experienced before.

Though I have rarely had a bad social studies experience, I would have to say that I can't really think of any lessons I particularly hated since I have such a deep love for the subject. I guess you could say my opinion on the subject is a tad bias. I do know however what I will include in my own classroom, and what I don't want. In my opinion, social studies should be something that children understand, because it is such a critical part of our experiences as adults. I want my

class to be as interactive as possible, because for me- that made all the difference in the world. I want children to be able to take trips, and reach beyond text book pages, through speakers, visual aids and even movies. Uninterested teachers do lead to uninterested learners. Teachers need to help start the fire, and need to show that it is a subject that the students should want to learn about. The deeper connection children have with this subject, the more it will help them to understand why our world is like it is today, and the footing that it stands on. Since I have had such a good experience, it will be easy for me to embrace this in my classroom; if I can share with at least one child, and helped to light a small fire in the others, I had succeeded as a teacher.

