

**Ninth Annual Region 4 Social Studies Conference: Breakout Sessions Preview  
January 30, 2016**

Title	Description	Audience	Presenter Info
Congressional Medal of Honor Educational Resources	Explore the Congressional Medal of Honor educational resources including character education. Resources include oral histories from Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.	Grades 6-12	Noel Wall, Director of Education, Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation
"So what?" A Pathway to Critical Thinking	"So what?" is a strategy that will allow students to make connections in ways that traditional teaching methods don't sufficiently allow. "So what?" will help students think more critically and become more successful on standardized exams and beyond.	Grades 6-12	Traniece Brown-Warrens, M.Ed, Teacher, Houston ISD Deady Middle School and Tia McKinney, Teacher, Galena Park ISD Galena Park Middle School
"What's The Story With...?" Visual History Strategy	Have you ever wondered how you can get students to think deeper about concepts without losing your mind? Find out how the strategy "What's the Story With..?" can help your students think deeply about historical themes through the use of pictures and critical thinking skills.	Grades 6-12	Samantha Zavala, Teacher, Spring ISD Meyer Elementary
5Es over America	Experience a 5E lesson from Region 4's new social studies resource, 5Es over America. The lesson provides engaging student-centered learning, analytical thinking, and literacy skills. Learn about this new resource designed for Grade 8 American history.	Grade 8	Debbie Behling, Education Specialist, Region 4 Social Studies Solutions
Anchors Away: Student-Created Anchor Charts	Teachers will look at social studies content, create anchor charts, and discuss the benefits of student-created anchor charts.	Grades K-8	Connie Guillory, Teacher, Spring ISD Bammel Elementary
Bernardo de Gálvez and Texas	Who was Bernardo de Galvez? How did he and the Spanish government help save the American Revolution? Using the Dilemma method, you will have a new strategy to teach your students how to use facts about Galvez and make their own decisions. What would your students have done to help George Washington and defeat the British on the Mississippi and in the Gulf of Mexico? With Dilemmas, you and your students will have a new means of critical thinking and decision-making skills for every issue and idea they learn.	Grade 8, Texas history	Dr. Carolina Castillo Crimm, Professor Emeritus, Sam Houston State University
Bill, I Love You So I Always Will	Find out how the timeless strategy of storytelling helps reluctant students understand how bills become laws. This strategy addresses various learning modalities and can be incorporated into all content areas with great success. Learn how you can help all students with pertinent content knowledge retention.	Grades K-5	Samantha Zavala, Teacher, Spring ISD Meyer Elementary

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Brain Power Today: Activity Based Lessons	Would you like your students to be motivated and energized throughout your lesson? Would you like your students to recall information quickly and accurately? If you answered "Yes!" to these questions, then this presentation is for you. Brain Power Today will have you energized and motivated to learn.	Grades 6–12	Gail Ward, Assistant Principal, Brain Power Today and Ishmael Muhammad, Special Education Teacher, Pasadena
Caddo Mounds SHS: Engaging Students through New Hands-on Exhibits and Ancient Stories	Caddo Mounds State Historic Site has an all-new immersive museum. Join us to learn how new exhibits and programs will help your students engage in learning Texas history. You will also have the chance to learn about the Caddo Indians through several of their traditional stories.	Texas history	Rachel Galan, Educator/Interpreter and Anthony Souther, Site Manager, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site
Centers Approach to EOC Review for U.S. History	This session will provide examples of a centers approach to reviewing for the U.S. History EOC. These activities are a combination of 3S strategies, Lead4ward, and other ideas to develop a hands-on interactive approach to preparing for the 11th grade U.S. History EOC exam. These activities target all groups from resource, co-teach, ELL learners, on-level, and AP students. These are classroom tested, student approved activities.	U.S. history	Cynthia Owens and Shan Voltin, Instructional Coaches, Bryan ISD Rudder High School
Content-Rich Skits for the History Classroom	Make history irresistible by incorporating easy-to-use "reader's theatre"-type skits that are engaging for all students. Role-playing has been shown to improve content retention. New American and Texas History skits will be demonstrated!	Grades 7-8	Sheryl Saeed and Michael Rushing, Teachers, Sheldon ISD C.E. King Middle School
Darwin Shuffle and Other Dances	This session will teach history through movement. Students learn in different ways and these activities connects U.S. history (Gilded Age through WWI) with dance. Dance your way through history and have fun.	U.S. history	Dr. Brian Walenta, Teacher, Goose Creek CISD Robert E. Lee High School
ECONOMICS!	Learn hands-on approaches to teaching economic concepts. Participate in two lessons that U.S. history, economics, and government teachers can use to satisfy TEKS in the economics strand.	U.S. history, economics, and government	Allen Reding, Teacher, Texas Council on Economic Education, Houston office
Educational Resources from the Texas Historical Commission	Discover educational resources and programming for Texas and U.S. history that are available for teachers through the Texas Historical Commission, including local history using historical markers and historic cemeteries.	Grades K-5	Lisa Worley, Youth Education Specialist, Texas Historical Commission

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Effective Ways for “Edutaining” Social Studies Learners	Bring your own device and learn how to increase student engagement in your classroom. Receive fresh ideas on exploring total participation techniques through various new apps and tech tools including VoiceThread, ScreenCastify, Smore, and many more. Learn how to motivate students through choice assignments, examine free apps, increase rigor, and differentiate instruction in your classroom.	Grades 6–12	Erica Robinson, Instructional Coach, Cinco Ranch High School and Celaina Huckeba, Instructional Coach, Mayde Creek High School, Katy ISD
Elementary Entrepreneurs	Learn how to use a student-run store to teach business skills and the importance of personal finance skills. This approach integrates math, reading, and social studies and builds self confidence and pride in students.	Grades K-5	Sally Mayberry, Owner, Elementary Entrepreneurs
ESPN Text Analysis	Using four colored pencils, this instructional strategy encourages students to persist in reading text, discover patterns among ideas, and explore the connections between economic, socio-cultural, political, and environmental domains in history, geography, and current events. The strategy will be modeled, practiced, and discussed.	Grades 6–12	Michael Williams, Dean of Instruction, Brazosport ISD Brazoswood High School
From Art to Technology: New Methods in Teaching about the Holocaust and Human Rights	This workshop will focus on unique ways to bring the lessons of the Holocaust into your classroom, as well as how to incorporate other genocides and human rights issues. In addition to looking at written, musical, and visual expressions of art as teaching tools, we will showcase new technologies and resources.	Grades 6–12	Emily Sample, Associate Director of Education and Dr. Mary Lee Webeck, Director of Education, Holocaust Museum Houston
Hands-on History	Have you ever have a hard time getting students engaged? During Hands-on History, you will explore quick projects and activities geared toward multiple learning modalities. You will also see how to how to differentiate each activity for learners at different levels. Although activities will be presented for 8th grade American history, they can be modified to use with any curriculum.	Grades 6–12	Susan Calvin, Teacher and Peggy Given, Teacher, Department Chair, Houston ISD Johnston Middle School
Help Your Students Build an Advanced Academics Skill Set	G/T Session: You must attend this session to receive a form to apply for G/T update credit with your district. Explore several effective skill-building strategies to help your students build up their critical-thinking toolkits for advanced courses.	Grades K-12	Andrew McBurney, Education Specialist, Region 4 ESC Advanced Academics
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Heritage Learning at San Felipe de Austin	Bring your students into an authentic archeological excavation project. We are uncovering the birthplace of Texas, Stephen F. Austin's first colony, and students are helping us do it. All TEKS and ELPS are aligned with the high engagement factor. Your students can join the project or follow its progress.	Grades 6–12	Carol Salva, Teacher on Special Assignment, Spring Branch ISD and Dr. Jon C. Lohse, Archeologist, Professor, Spring Branch ISD ALL
I Have Google: Now What?	This session will provide examples of how to use Google Drive in social studies classroom applications.	Grades 6–12	Michael McNeil, Teacher, Galena Park ISD Galena Park High School and Debbie Lowry, Teacher, Hardin ISD Intermediate
Moving Towards Movenote	Movenote is a Google App that allows your students to video themselves and combine Google Slides in the same video presentation. Turn presentations into something the students like to do. Examples will be shown.	Grades 6–12	Michael McNeil, Teacher, Galena Park ISD Galena Park High School and Keith Nolte, Teacher, Hardin ISD Intermediate
Music and History!	Music is all around us! We remember songs from our childhood without even realizing it; what if we applied that same theory to teaching our students? Learn how to integrate music into your lessons and leave with classroom tools.	Grades 6-8	Megan Puckett and Amanda Banks, Teachers, CFISD Salyards Middle School
Pencils Down, Devices Up	Learn about Schoology, a learning management system that can change the relationship students have with the content and their personal learning journey. Participants will explore building content in Schoology, and how to use Schoology as a professional learning network. Bring your own mobile device to use during this session.	Grades 6–12	Suzanna Garcia, Instructional Technology Specialist, Aldine ISD Escamilla Intermediate
Personal Financial Literacy, Financial Math, and Money Matters: Are They the Same?	If you are a teacher, counselor, or parent who is a proponent of personal financial education, you may wonder how to make an informed choice between the various economic course options. How do the TEKS compare? What are the expected outcomes? How do you encourage students to take these courses? How do you encourage teachers to teach these courses? Find answers to these questions during this session.	Grades 6–12	Lorraine Decker, Curriculum Developer, Game of Real Life - FMA and Jessica Davis, Teacher, Harmony School
Primary Source Analysis Tools: Combatting Student Misconceptions	The TEKS require students to apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources. Learn how to help students build background knowledge, construct meaning, and dispel misconceptions through the practice of teaching students to analyze primary sources.	Grades K-5	Shawn Mabry and Shari Markowitz, Professional Development, Studies Weekly

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Putting the Pieces Together	Learn hands-on differentiated instructional strategies that allow all students to be successful on the STAAR test. Anchor charts, vocabulary, visuals, screen beans, maps, and a ten-day STAAR review will be included.	Grade 8	Evangeline Mitchell, Teacher, Spring ISD Twin Creeks Middle and Tammy Spangler, Assessment and Data Klein Central Office
STAAR Review Strategies	as government, court cases, and reformation. Students from SPED to PreAp students will be helped by these STAAR review activities through differentiated instruction. All activities will be available online.	Grade 8	Michelle Neyrey, Teacher, Humble ISD Kingwood Middle School
Student Interactive Notebooks	Learn how Interactive Notebooks allow students to be creative designers of their own personal journals. Explore advantages of Interactive Notebooks, including student organization, responsibility and retention. Interactive Notebooks can be used to keep records of learning activities and data.	Grades 6-8	Barbara Clemons, Teacher, Aldine ISD Hoffman Middle School
Teaching 9/11 as a Multi-Disciplinary Lesson	The objective of this presentation is dedicated to raising awareness and generating consciousness so that we might be available to teach 9/11 to students of all ages in both public and private forums. Participants will learn about multi-cultural settings via the innovative integration of multimedia technology, the sharing of ideas and by providing a framework that inspires skills development in learners of all ages and backgrounds.	U.S. and world history	Stephen Shedden, Lead Teacher/Evaluator and Building Level Technology Coach and Michael Weininger, Teacher, Knox County Bearden Middle
Teaching Beyond the Textbook	Participants will create student learning experiences that develop academic mindsets, critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration in new and meaningful ways. Digital stations will be used to develop content activities that promote 21st century skills.	Grades 6–12	Jamie Filipow and Cynthia Fairbanks, Instructional Coaches, Houston ISD Central Office
Teaching Social Studies through a Literacy Lens	Many social studies teachers understand the importance of exposing students to primary sources and informational text. This session will provide two research-based instructional strategies which social studies teachers can use to teach content and support student’s literacy development: Essential Words and Critical Reading. These strategies provide an efficient and effective method for learning vocabulary and comprehending primary sources.	Grades 6–12	Veronica Miller, School Support Coach, Middle School Matters Institute at The University of Texas at Austin
Teaching Social Studies with Digital Maps	This presentation introduces participants to teaching social studies with engaging digital maps and multimedia. Specifically, participants will learn how to create ArcGIS Online Story Maps to address K-12 geography content and social studies skills TEKS.	Grades 6–12	Dr. Jeff Lash, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Houston-Clear Lake

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Teaching Texas Heroes	The Adventures of Arnie Armadillo in the State of Texas are the result of an idea for a series of stories for Kathy Gause’s grandchildren. It is now an excellent resource for elementary school teachers. Her first series is about the geography and wildlife of Texas. Her second series is about the men and women who helped Texas become first a republic and then a state. There will be an activity to see how well the participants know their Texas heroes. Each participant will be entered into a drawing for free books. This session is targeted for grades K-7 and Instructional Resources.	Grades K–5, Texas history	Kathy Gause, Author, Adventures of Arnie Armadillo
Texas History: Engaging All Students Using Differentiated Instruction with Nonfiction and Fiction books and Classroom Teaching Tools	Often teachers try to teach students instead of allowing the students to have fun and teach themselves. Give them the tools and the student can put the Texas history story together. This class will engage the students with TEKS-correlated lessons that can be used with the teaching tools you already have in your classroom. Cross curricular activities using literacy will help students learn the uniqueness of Texas and her people in an unforgettable way.	Texas history	Joni Dodson, Sales Representative, AKJ Education, Spotlight on Texas, and my Great State Texas Map (Bearing Tree Learning) Firelight Books
Using Literacy Based Instruction to Teach Social Studies	If you are are short on instructional time during the day and cannot seem to fit in social studies, this session will show you how to teach social studies during literacy instruction. Interactive, engaging activities that include word study, read alouds, guided reading and independent reading will be explored using social studies content. Lessons will be reviewed to show how to incorporate and enhance social studies instruction. Researched-based strategies will be incorporated, and teachers will leave with resources to develop effective social studies lessons that facilitate improvements in reading and writing expository text.	Grades K–5	Dr. Monique Johnson, Manager of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, Houston ISD Central Office
What is Skills-Based Instruction?	For the past several years the phrase “skills-based instruction” has been circulating around the social studies world. Join this session to discover the successes and shortcomings of a group of teachers who have attempted to shift towards “skills-based instruction” during the past few years. Examples will be shared.	Grades 6–12	Robert Thornton, Instructional Coach, Harmony Public Schools Support Center