

# Facing the Issues

John A. Moore

This presidential address was delivered at the NCSS annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, on Friday, November 16, 2012

On behalf of the NCSS conference planning committee, board of directors, and staff, I proudly stand before you to launch the beginning of the 92nd annual conference here in the Emerald City of Seattle, Washington. The Seattle local arrangements committee, led by Lisa Clarke and Margit McGuire, should be highly commended for their enthusiastic and cordial hospitality and dedication to ensuring that we all benefit from these invaluable professional development and networking opportunities offered to us today, tomorrow, and Sunday, as we convene here in the Washington State Convention Center and Seattle's surrounding hotels. Tina Storer, my other conference co-chair, has brought expectations and considerations from our Canadian colleagues here in attendance. Co-chair Gayle Thieman has guided us in collaborating with our Oregon social studies educators, and Co-Chair Diane Hart has continued her outstanding role of coordinating conference sessions, clinics, and workshops.

From my humble beginnings, in 1980 as a high school social studies teacher on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Solen, North Dakota, I have developed a strong regard for the ideals and purposes of social studies education. Given that Solen High School, where I taught, was a very small school with an enrollment of only 105 students, I was responsible for teaching Geography to Solen's 28 freshmen, World History to the school's 26 sophomores, U.S History to the 26 juniors, and Government to the 25 Strong and Mighty seniors. Yes, I was what you would call Solen High School's social studies department, and given the fact that this school was an accredited high school in the state of North Dakota, I was expected and required, as the social studies department, to offer social studies electives in sociology, world studies, psychology and Native American studies. My current methods students today at Western Kentucky University find it amazing that I had to produce six different daily lesson plans that would engage my Solen students.

Mrs. Drukenmiller's classroom, the English department, was directly across the hall from me; Mr. Hendrickson, the Science guy's classroom, was next door to my left; and Mrs. Gross's Math department was to my right!

As the only social studies educator at Solen High School, I found myself constantly defending the value and need for a solid social studies education for the students. It was my responsibility to provide a firm rationale for the social studies curriculum to Solen's parents, community, and my math, language arts, and science colleagues. Who and what could I turn to for help in advocating the social studies disciplines? This is when I turned to NCSS! The year was 1980. I found that NCSS offered me strong position statements relating to the need of social education not only in Solen, but throughout the United States and the world. Now, here we are in the year 2012. Thirty-two years have passed, and thanks to all of you, we find NCSS to still be the voice for a strong social studies curriculum in our schools.



From our 2012 NCSS membership survey, you identified that we, as social studies educators, have five major issues facing social studies.

1. Teaching 21st-century skills; civic, financial, and entrepreneurial literacy; global awareness;
2. Integrating social studies with other core subjects;
3. Developing common state social studies standards;
4. Strengthening social studies as part of the K-6 core curriculum;
5. Advocating for the social studies professions.

Throughout your experience of the 92nd NCSS annual conference here in Seattle, I challenge each of you to identify ways this conference is aligned with those top five issues and much more. You will find that this conference has more than 500 content rich sessions covering all subjects and grade levels, a lineup of renowned speakers and education experts, and many special events, all of which make this 92nd NCSS annual conference professionally rewarding and stimulating. Enjoy your stay here in Seattle and enjoy the conference. Thank you! 🌍

**JOHN A. MOORE** is president of the National Council for the Social Studies and an associate professor in the School of Teacher Education at Western Kentucky University.

# THE CHOICES PROGRAM

## Curriculum Resources That Meet Common Core Standards

The Choices Program's student-centered curriculum makes complex international issues accessible and meaningful for students of diverse abilities and learning styles.

Critical Thinking

Textual Analysis

Creativity & Innovation

Civic Literacy

Communication

Multiple Perspectives



Download  
the Human Rights  
iBooks Textbook  
**FREE**  
from the  
iBookstore

## iBooks Textbooks

We now offer iBooks Textbooks that utilize the interactive features and video capabilities of the iPad and iPad mini.



THE  
**CHOICES PROGRAM**  
*at Brown University*

Current Issues | World History | U.S. History

See a Complete Curriculum Catalog & Download a FREE iBooks Textbook

[www.choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu)

## FREE Primary Source Materials for Social Studies Teachers

### For Your Classroom:

- Timely Teachable Videos
- Lesson Plans
- Videos & Discussion Questions Grouped by Topic

### For YOU:

- Annual Fellowship Opportunities
- Tutorials on Using C-SPAN Classroom
- Summer Educators' Conferences  
*Apply now* at [c-spanclassroom.org](http://c-spanclassroom.org)

# C-SPAN CLASSROOM. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

**It's free!**

*Join online today at  
[c-spanclassroom.org](http://c-spanclassroom.org)*



**C-SPAN**   
**CLASSROOM** 

CREATED BY CABLE



# USE THE SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS TO MEET THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS!

## Teaching Reading with the Social Studies Standards: Elementary Units that Integrate Great Books, Social Studies, and the Common Core Standards

Edited by Syd Golston and Peggy Altoff  
*NCSS Bulletin 112, 118 pp., 2012*

This book has been designed for elementary teachers who want to meet the Common Core Standards for Reading as they teach social studies.

The class activities recommended in this book for each grade level allow teachers to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Achieve specific learning expectations outlined in the *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies*.
2. Achieve specific objectives outlined in the Common Core Standards for Reading (as well as selected other Common Core Standards)

This book's opening chapters lay the groundwork for the effective teaching of standards-based social studies through the use of literature. Most of the volume consists of reviews and annotations of outstanding children's books for the elementary grades. The contributors examine seven outstanding children's books in depth (one for each grade from pre-K through 5) and recommend scores of other suitable books.

The in-depth reviews demonstrate how to maximize the potential of the featured books for the purpose of teaching social studies effectively and meeting the Common Core Standards. The contributors show teachers how to make the most of timeless classics such as *Make Way for Ducklings* and *The Little House*, as well as more recent books, including *You and Me Together*, *Nina Bonita*, *Show Way*, *The Unbreakable Code* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*.

This book provides teachers with guidelines for teaching excellent social studies through the use of literature in ways that offer students a rich education in the topics of culture and cultural diversity, history, geography, civics and government, global connections, social and economic change, and individual development.

Item 120112 Price: \$29.95/NCSS Members: \$19.95

### How to order:

Use the NCSS online bookstore

(guidelines at [www.socialstudies.org/publications](http://www.socialstudies.org/publications)), or

Call 1-800-683-0812, or

Fax 301-843-0159 (24 hours), or

Mail orders and purchase orders to

NCSS Publications

P.O. Box 2067

Waldorf, MD 20602-2067

