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September 2017/October 2017



Controversial Conversations in the Classroom

As teachers, wherever we lie on the political spectrum does inform who we are when we teach. Sometimes it is difficult to teach an issue without feeling a personal connection or having a personal reaction.

Addressing controversial issues takes a courageous educator who hopes to teach the skill of civil dialogue to budding minds that will be the future citizens and civic leaders of our towns, states, and nation. It is civic education.

Controversy has always been part of our democracy. An example is convincing people to ratify our American Constitution. [The Federalist Papers](#) and the [Anti-Federalist Papers](#) were a civil way to discuss the pros and cons of our proposed form of government and informed the document that would describe its powers.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, there are always teachable moments that students want and need to discuss, instead of the planned lesson for the day. Teachers grapple with thoughts of validating one student's opinion that might trample another's, so many avoid discussing difficult issues.

However, avoiding these issues denies students the skill of practicing civic discussions in a safe place—your classroom! Facing these conversations head on supports the goal of the new History–Social Science (HSS) Framework, which states that students need to be "...literate, informed, and engaged citizens."

Controversial conversations allow students to learn about an issue from multiple perspectives, helping

them cultivate an informed outlook.

Many foundations and non-profit organizations have formed around providing lessons to support the teaching of controversial issues, as well as the professional development to support the use of these materials. School has started for many of you, and will start soon for others. Make it a goal to try out a controversial conversation with your students this year. You will find out that students are willing participants and ask for more opportunities for these types of discussions!

The following resources can be used to support the use of controversial conversations in the classroom:

- Teaching Tolerance [lessons](#)
- Facing History and Ourselves - [Preparing Students for Difficult Conversations](#)
- Buck Institute for Education - [blog post](#)
- ASCD [resources](#)
- Newseum - [EdTools](#)
- ProCon.org - [Tools and Resources](#)
- Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility - [10 Suggestions](#)

Current event reports are no longer enough. Preparing students for informed, skilled, and engaged participation in civic life is a key goal of HSS education and is addressed throughout the HSS Framework. Appendix D of the Framework describes how civic learning is important for students to "...stay informed about and make evidence-based decisions about public issues, respect the rights of others, participate in public affairs, and seek the betterment of their communities, state, and country."

Make 2017–18 a "controversial" year!

California State Park of the Month

Colonel Allensworth State
Historic Park



In August 1908 Colonel Allen Allensworth and four other settlers established a town founded, financed, and governed by African Americans. Their dream of developing an abundant and thriving community stemmed directly from a strong belief in programs that allowed black citizens to help themselves create better lives. By 1910 Allensworth's success was the focus of many national newspaper articles praising the town and its inhabitants.

An unavoidable set of circumstances made it impossible for the residents of this tiny town located 30 miles north of Bakersfield to achieve their founders' dreams over the long term.

In 1974 California State Parks purchased land within the historical townsite of Allensworth, and it became Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park.

Source:
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=583

In the Zone: Professional Development and Instructional Resources

Law Day 2018 Theme Announced

The American Bar Association (ABA) has announced the theme for [Law Day 2018](#): "*Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom.*"

The U.S. Constitution sets out a system of government with distinct and independent branches—Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court. It also defines legislative, executive, and judicial powers and outlines how they interact. These three separate branches provide a framework for freedom. Yet, this framework is not self-executing. We the people must continually act to ensure that our constitutional democracy endures, preserving our liberties and advancing our rights.

The Law Day 2018 theme enables students to reflect on the separation of powers as fundamental to our constitutional purpose and to consider how our governmental system is working for ourselves and our posterity.

Law Day is held on May 1st every year to celebrate the role of law in our society and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the legal profession.

National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference

November 17–19, 2017
San Francisco, California

There is still time to take advantage of the special California educator [local registration pricing](#). Choose from one day, weekend only, or full conference levels. The theme of the conference is *Expanding Visions/Bridging Traditions*.

9/11 Memorial Webinar

The 9/11 Memorial Museum invites teachers and students from across the country to participate in an interactive Webinar to commemorate the 16th anniversary of 9/11. This FREE program, broadcast live from the Museum throughout the day, connects students and teachers with Museum staff and guest speakers to learn about the terrorist attacks and the importance of commemoration. There will be an exclusive preview of the program available for administrators and teachers at www.911memorial.org/webinar on Friday, September 8, beginning at 12:00 p.m. The Webinar is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2017.

Participants will be introduced to exhibitions within the Museum; learn about 9/11 through personal stories from a first responder, survivor, and family member; and will have the opportunity to ask questions through a live chat with Museum staff.

The 35-minute program will be broadcast throughout the day. The Webinar will be interpreted in American Sign Language and captioned.

Register for the Webinar [here](#).

The National Korean Studies Seminar (NKSS)

has recently published *Teaching East Asia: Korea*, a supplementary program for K–12 educators, in e-book format. The resource includes articles and lessons on art, economics, history, language, literature, political development, and more. The e-book is available free on the NKSS [Web site](#).

Additional resources to study East Asia can be found on the National Consortium For Teaching About Asia [Web site](#).

In the Zone: Professional Development and Instructional Resources

California Legislative Calendar

Ever wonder why nothing happens in the State Congress in the Summer? Well, the answer is the Legislative Summer Recess, which took place from July 21–August 21, 2017. And, once the Senate and Assembly reconvene in August, they only have three weeks to deal with the bills that are still pending. The last day for any fiscal committee to meet and report pending bills to the Floor of each chamber is September 1, 2017. By September 8, 2017, all bills on the Floor must be amended. No committees, except for Conference or Rules Committees, meet after September 5, 2017. From September 5–15, each chamber has Floor sessions only. The last day for each house to pass bills for this legislative session is September 15, 2017. Governor Brown has until October 15, 2017, to sign or veto bills passed. You will have to wait until the October Newsletter to find out the outcome of any of the HSS bills you have been following, or you could always check [here](#).

Legislative Update for September!

The following bills that have an impact on HSS were passed out of their house of origin and are still alive:

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 24](#), the Seal of Civic Engagement, was passed by the Assembly. The bill was read a second time and ordered to a third reading. The original bill has been amended to reflect new dates and oversight.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 135](#) has been amended to require the state to develop a model curriculum in media literacy for K–12. This changes the original bill that would have integrated media literacy into the social sciences curriculum. The bill has been placed in the suspense file in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 583](#) is now called *High school graduation course requirements: economics: financial literacy*. The bill proposes that students passing a Financial Education elective course would get credit towards high school graduation for passing the required semester of economics. This bill has been placed in the suspense file in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

[AB 858](#), which would require the Superintendent to convene a Financial Literacy Advisory Committee, is currently in the suspense file in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

[AB 189](#), which would require a service-learning requirement be added to high school graduation requirements, is currently in the suspense file in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

[AB 738](#), model curriculum in Native American studies, is currently in the suspense file in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

[SB 596](#) sets up a Student Empowerment Commission Program (SECP). This would be a voluntary program for California public and private schools. Students, referred to as Commissioners, would meet regionally to focus on current legislation. Five commissioners from each region would be selected to attend a statewide conference in Sacramento. The bill is currently in the suspense file in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

2017 California Association of School Economics Teachers (CASET) presents its 22nd annual Economics Conference

October 20, 2017, 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Presentations will include:

- The Economics of the New HSS Framework
- Teaching the Basics and Beyond Using MobLab
- Games for Macro Econ Class
- Are Your Students College and Career Ready?

Conference attendees will receive useful teaching ideas, resources, and curricula.

Click [here](#) to register. E-mail questions to casetregistration@gmail.com.

In the Zone: Professional Development and Instructional Resources, continued

Education for All!

Mark your calendars for the EdSource Symposium in Oakland, CA, October 5, 2017, from 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. The focus will be on how educators can serve their most vulnerable students, including immigrant families, special education students, LGBTQ students, and more. Make sure to register today to snag your spot! Go to the Web site for more information: <http://symposium.edsource.org>.

Teaching the HSS Framework—Launch Conferences

Conferences will include instructional resources and programs for educators to support implementation of California's new HSS Framework. Dates and locations for 2017 and 2018 are listed below:

Conferences hosted by the History Project:

- *September 28, 2017* at Santa Clara County of Education **SOLD OUT**
- *October 11, 2017* at Cal Poly Pomona
- *December 13, 2017* at CSU East Bay
- *January 30, 2018* at Fresno State University
- *April 24, 2018* at the Riverside Convention Center *NEW!*
- *May 22, 2018* at Sonoma State University *NEW!*

Register [here](#).

Conferences hosted by California County Superintendents Educational Services Association:

- *September 6, 2017* at Ventura Office of Education
- *November 1, 2017* at Los Angeles County Office of Education

Register [here](#).

More dates will be announced soon!

Mikva Challenge's Action Civics LA

Action Civics LA trained 28 new and veteran teachers in Southern California in the [Issues to Action](#) curriculum and hosted a world café with several partnering organizations. Each organization agreed to help teachers and classrooms by exposing students to their advocacy work and providing civic support and training for students!

Read a Garden Grove [student's blog](#) on her experience in Washington, D.C., as a 2016 [American Soapbox](#) Video Competition winner.

If you are a teacher in Southern California who is interested in participating in Action Civics LA programming, contact Sheila McMullin at sheila@mikvachallenge.org to get started!

The Reischauer Scholars Program

(RSP) is an online course for grade 10–12 high school students sponsored by the [Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education](#) and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Named for former Ambassador to Japan, Edwin O. Reischauer, the RSP annually selects 25–30 students from throughout the U.S. to engage in an intensive study of Japan.

The RSP provides students with a broad overview of Japanese history, literature, religion, art, politics, economics, and contemporary society, with a special focus on the U.S.–Japan relationship.

Selected students participate in the online course about Japan from February to June of each year.

For more information click [here](#).

\$5 Million State Grant to Help Transform K–12 History Education

The California Historical Society (CHS) will work with the California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP) at UC Davis to establish and implement Teaching California: an innovative, free, online resource of instructional materials to support the California's new HSS Framework.

Funds for this state grant will be appropriated in the 2017–18 fiscal year to create this free online open resource bank for K-12 for HSS, which will be made available to teachers by July 1, 2019.

Read the CHS [new release](#) and the CHSSP [blog](#) to find out more!

In the Zone: Professional Development and Instructional Resources, continued

Constitution Day is September 17, 2017

Are you looking for instructional resources for Constitution Day? You can find more information at the following Web sites:

- US Archives - <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>
- National Constitution Center - <http://constitutioncenter.org/constitution-day> and <http://www.constitutionday.us/educators.htm>
- Constitutional Rights Foundation - <http://crf-usa.org/constitution-day/constitution-day-lesson-plans-kindergarten-middle-and-high-school.html>
- CDE Web resources - <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im/constitutionday.asp> and <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/im/constdayresources.asp>.
- Library of Congress - <http://loc.gov/teachers/constitutionday.html>
- US Department of Education - <http://loc.gov/teachers/constitutionday.html> and <https://blog.ed.gov/2016/09/constitution-day-coming/>
- US Federal Courts – <http://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day>

United States Senate Youth Program

The CDE administers the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), which is an annual scholarship competition funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and endorsed by the United States Senate.

Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia select two high school juniors or seniors to participate in the USSYP. The delegates receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and attend a one-week, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from March 3–10, 2018.

Please note that students must be nominated by their high school principal to be considered for the USSYP. Students are unable to apply to the USSYP directly. The deadline to apply for the 2018 USSYP is Monday, October 2, 2017.

For more information, visit the [USSYP CDE Web page](#).

Read about last year's delegates and alternates [here](#).

High School Voter Education Weeks

September 18–29, 2017

California *Education Code* designates the last two full weeks in April and September to be High School Voter Education Weeks. This provides an opportunity for high schools and their students to partner with county elections officials to promote civic education and participation on campus and foster an environment that cultivates lifelong voters and active citizens.

A list of resources to assist with the promotion of these High School Voter Education Weeks can be found [here](#).

Also! Did you know that students can now pre-register to vote at 16 and vote at 18? Check out this [link](#) for more information.

The California Department of Education (CDE) link for Student Voter Engagement can be found [here](#).

California Indian Curriculum Summit

October 9, 2017 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
California State University, Sacramento

This full-day Summit features California Indian cultural consultants, curriculum content specialists, and community advocates. It is designed specifically for grades 3 and 4 teachers with the intent of providing California Indian-vetted replacement units that address the California Standards and the newly adopted HSS Framework.

For registration information, use this [link](#).

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HSS: Summer 2017 Calendar

September 2017

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September:
National Hispanic Heritage Month

- **September 4:** Labor Day
- **September 9:** California Admission Day
- **September 11:** Patriot Day
- **September 19:** [Constitution and Citizenship Day](#)

October 2017

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October:
Filipino American History Month
National Hispanic Heritage Month

- **October 5:** [World Teachers' Day](#)
- **October 22:** [Make a Difference Day](#)
- **October 24:** United Nations Day
- **October 31:** Halloween

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We would love to hear from you! Please let us know of any events and/or resources you would like to see included in the next edition of the newsletter.

To contribute ideas and/or resources, e-mail Janet Mann at jmann@cde.ca.gov.