

A Veteran Teacher's Lessons: Web Resources and Downloadable Lessons for Students in the Current Crisis

Schools around the country are closed in response to the novel coronavirus. It is a tough and uncertain situation for students, their parents, and teachers, too. In California, we don't know if schools will reopen this year.

Many districts are asking teachers to continue to provide instruction to students through various types of on-line learning. Social studies teachers are scrambling to find web resources and downloadable lessons for their students to access at home.

I've posted [my favorite social studies/history web resources](#) on my [A Veteran Teacher's Lessons website](#). In addition, I've shared my lesson handouts and materials that can be downloaded for secondary social studies classes including: [World Studies](#), [US History](#), [Government](#) and [Economics](#).

Being a Good Citizen in Tough Times

The current crisis is also an educational opportunity to engage our students in an online discussion of what it means to be a good citizen during tough times. Below are three simple online lessons I designed for this purpose.

Photo Analysis Lesson

[Photo analysis](#) is one way to draw students into thinking about our current situation. For example, have students view two photos taken on March 18th, 2020. The first photo was taken of Miami Beach and the second was a photo of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on the same day.



Photo of Miami Beach - March 18, 2020



Photo of San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge - March 18, 2020

Students should respond to the following questions:

- Describe the details from the first photo. What does this photo show about the response to the novel coronavirus of the people on the beach?
- Describe details from the second photo. What can you imply from the empty bridge leading to San Francisco?
- Contrast these two photos. How does each photo signify different reactions by citizens and governments to the current coronavirus pandemic.
- What is the responsibility of good citizens during the novel corona virus pandemic?

Read and Respond to Online articles

Online news articles provide another way to get students to think creatively about fighting the pandemic. Have students read and watch the following CBS link:

[Distilleries are making hand sanitizer with their in-house alcohol and giving it out for free to combat coronavirus](#)

Students should respond to the following questions:

- What are several alcohol distilleries doing to help stop the novel coronavirus outbreak?
- Go on-line and find another example of a person or business who has found a creative way to fight the novel coronavirus. Post your example.
- What can you do to help and be a good citizen during the current crisis?

Then and Now Lesson - The Homefront in World War II

US History teachers may also want to introduce the various ways that Americans mobilized and sacrificed during World War II. Have students view posters designed to mobilize the citizenry on the Homefront in World War II. Have students look at each poster in [The Homefront in WW II slideshow](#) and respond to the following questions:

- List the different ways that US citizens on the home front supported the war effort during WW II.
- Make a list of different ways that US citizens and local, state, and federal governments can help the current fight against the novel coronavirus.
- What can you or your family do in the current fight against the novel coronavirus.
- When the history of the current crisis is written, who do you think will be heroes in the fight against the novel coronavirus?

These are challenging times. I hope you find a web resource or a lesson above useful for your social studies students. Or perhaps one will spark an idea for your new, virtual, classroom.