

INTEGRATING READING AND NUMERACY INTO SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES

by:

Alma Mendoza Sico

Teacher III, Pablo Roman National High School

In the landscape of secondary education today, the importance of teaching reading and numeracy cannot be overstated. When seamlessly integrated into social studies subjects, these foundational skills equip students with a multifaceted toolkit essential for academic success and civic engagement. Social studies, with its diverse range of topics encompassing history, politics, and culture, provides an ideal platform for nurturing these skills.

In their dual role as reading and numeracy teachers, social studies educators serve as guiding lights in developing these fundamental competencies. Beyond the traditional part of content delivery, they play a pivotal role in shaping comprehensive education (Joynes et al., 2019). They encourage students to delve into primary and secondary sources, instilling the ability to analyze complex texts effectively. By teaching students to interpret graphic data, they provide essential skills for comprehending graphs, charts, and maps commonly used in the field. In bringing real-world relevance into the classroom by incorporating current events, social studies teachers create an environment where students are encouraged to engage in discussions and debates about contemporary issues, nurturing their capacity to assess information critically. Collaborative efforts with mathematics and language arts teachers ensure that reading and numeracy skills are reinforced consistently across disciplines, fostering a well-rounded educational experience that transcends boundaries.

Project-based learning is incorporated into the teaching methodology, requiring students to research, write, and present their findings. This approach deepens their

understanding of the subject matter and promotes reading and numeracy skills. By demonstrating the real-world applications of these skills, educators illustrate their practicality and encourage students to apply them beyond the classroom.

The benefits of integrating reading and numeracy into secondary social studies lessons are profound. Students develop their critical thinking and communication skills and the ability to apply these skills to real-life contexts. This empowerment equips them to engage in political and social discourse and to contribute positively to their communities and the broader world (American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, 2010).

Indeed, the integration of reading and numeracy within the realm of secondary social studies is an indispensable cornerstone of comprehensive education. Educators who successfully weave these foundational skills into their lessons prepare students to become critical thinkers and informed citizens, capable of comprehending complex information, effectively communicating their perspectives, and participating actively in the complex conversations of our ever-changing global landscape. By extending their role beyond content delivery to that of reading and numeracy teachers, social studies educators ensure that students are well-prepared for the challenges of today's world.

References:

American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. (2010, September). 21st century knowledge and skills in educator preparation. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED519336.pdf>

Joynes, C., Rossignoli, S., & Amonoo-Kuofi, E. F. (2019, August). 21st century skills: Evidence of issues in definition, demand and delivery for development contexts. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d71187ce5274a097c07b985/21st_century.pdf

depedbataan.com
The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan