Best Practices of Teaching Social Studies

Teacher makes students aware of the standards related to social studies.

Critical Elements – Evidence of all elements must be present within the instruction and learning of social studies in order to be considered standards based.
- Development of chronological thinking
- Utilization of historical sources
- Critical examination of historical interpretations
- Employment of historical research skills
- Decision making and evaluation of issues, controversies, problems, and developments related to social studies

Development of Chronological Thinking
Examples of chronological thinking strategies
- Calendar time
- People and events in time
- Time lines
- Sequential order
- Continuity and change
- Difference between past, present, and future
- Context for events
- Cause and effect

Utilization of Historical Sources
Examples of historical sources and uses
- Data in historical/contemporary maps
- Different historical perspectives
- Visual data from maps/tables
- Mathematical data from graphs/tables
- Author or historical source
- Analysis and interpretation (ex. music diaries, film, art, cartoons, etc.)
- Literal meaning of historical passage

Critical Examination of Historical Interpretations
Examples of strategies to examine history
- Fact versus opinion
- Central issues or problems in the past and present
- Multiple points of view
- Reasons/causes for multiple POV
- Illustrations in historical stories documents
- Causes and results
- Impact of opinions on the perception of facts
- Author or source of historical narrative
- Recognition of bias
Employment of Historical Research Skills
Research skills are used to enhance understanding of historical events.
- Historical events (time and place)
- Credibility of evidence
- Facts, folklore, and fiction
- Historical questions
- Primary sources
- Secondary sources
- Create interpretation
- Conclusion
  (ex. Storytelling, role playing, diorama, simulation, group projects, skits and plays, History Day projects, mock trials, speeches, research paper, debates, etc.)
- Awareness of plagiarism and Works Cited

Decision Making and Evaluation
Issues, Controversies, Problems, and Developments Related to Social Studies
- Identify issue or problem
- Formulate position or course of action
- Identify relevant developments of I/P
- Evaluate alternative courses of action