

# Social Studies Contest

The Academic Fair will be an opportunity to you to showcase your learning of Social Studies topics that interest you. You will complete inquiry projects to display to others.

Each mini-project you complete will answer a guiding question you create for yourself: what question are you choosing to research that will drive your project? After researching to answer your guiding question, you will create a product in which you are able to share your learning with others and inform others about your topic.

The purpose of these projects is for you to learn and explore something new. The project provides you with the opportunity to relate the ideas and principles learned in social studies to your daily life.

## Topic Selection

Ideas for projects may be taken from the social studies textbook, a library book, the newspaper, a magazine, or any other source. You should be interested in the topic selected. Topics should not be general. A specific topic, such as "Christopher Columbus and the discovery of America," is much better than a general topic, such as "Explorers." You should then turn your topic into your driving question: what specific answer do you want to gain from your research. For example: What did Christopher Columbus want to find as a result of his exploring?

There are general categories your project could fall into:

Category	Description
Culture	This deals with the studies of man's physical and cultural characteristics, distribution, customs, and social relationships. Culture is developed by men living and thinking together. Examples: ancient civilizations, Native Americans, customs, festivals, types of shelter and food, religion.
Economics	This deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth and with the various related problems of labor, finance, and taxation. Man labors to satisfy human wants. Examples: money, manufacturing, trade, transportation of goods and services, communication, inflation, stock exchange, Common Market, government budgets.
History (American History or World History)	This is what has happened in the life or development of a people, country, or individual. Man's story is a continuous narrative of man's progress. Examples: story of mankind, historical events, places, biographies, personalities.
Political Science	This concerns determining of the form of government, choosing the officials, making the laws, and performing the function of one's government. Social control regulates group living. Example: government agencies, US Constitution, court system, international governments.
Sociology	This deals with the studies of the beliefs, values, and relationships of groups and the principles governing social acceptance. Examples: families, mental health, propaganda, lifestyles, dreams, television, media.

Local History	This deals with how the area around us has developed and changed over time. Examples: Kentucky history, Bardstown history, history of Bardstown Elementary School
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### Research

Research your topic thoroughly to have a good understanding of your topic. You should know enough about it that you can teach it to others!

Make sure you pay attention to which sources you are using and whether they are reliable. For example, if I am researching about Christopher Columbus, I know that it is a topic that has a lot of debate about it. Therefore, some sources may want to think about it a certain way. I need to be careful that I am getting a whole understanding of the topic and not just one viewpoint.

### Creation

After thoroughly researching your topic to answer question, create a product in any format you wish to share your learning.

Your creation must include:

- Information that answers your question
- Why you chose to research this topic/ask this question
- General background information about your topic
- Where you got your information from (cite your sources)

**During the Academic Fair, your creations will be on display for others to explore!**

## SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR DISPLAY AND SAFETY CHECKLIST

### ALL PROJECTS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING DISPLAY AND SAFETY GUIDELINES

- \_\_\_ 1. Projects are **not limited** to the traditional tri-fold display board, however exhibit size is limited to W 36" X D 30" X H 100" maximum (floor to top) . Projectors and screens are **not permitted** to be set up for presentation. A laptop and a PowerPoint presentation **may not** be used to take the place of a backboard and physical model.
- \_\_\_ 2. The name of the student, grade level, homeroom teacher, and project title should be written on a 3 X 5 index card and taped on the back of the project
- \_\_\_ 3. Projects must be self-explanatory, stand by themselves, and /or have side boards.
- \_\_\_ 4. No live animals may be exhibited.
- \_\_\_ 5. No food or beverages may be consumed in the display area.
- \_\_\_ 6. No exhibits are to display original archaeological artifacts.
- \_\_\_ 7. Decisions of judges are final and are not subject to review or appeal. Judges' evaluation forms for projects will not be made public following the conclusion of the Academic Fair.

### List of Social Studies Resources / Tools

Topics for study are unlimited, especially at the local level. Examples include studies of business, churches, government, people, community change, and rural and urban problems. Gathering information concerning one project may require distribution of questionnaires to a sample of people and tabulation of the results; another project may be based on the study of manuscripts and/or newspapers, and still another project may be based on studying the government publications of some specialized agency. The following are sources of information:

- newspapers, magazines, published letters, memos
- unpublished manuscripts (wills, letters, deeds, church minutes, diaries)
- government publications (international, national, state and local)
- publications by private agencies
- physical remains (buildings, baffle areas, artifacts)
- oral interviews, polls and questionnaires, photographs, sound recordings, and films

### Plagiarizing vs. Paraphrasing

#### What is Plagiarism?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source □ to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

**If you plagiarize any portion of your project, your project will not be eligible to be judge.** Therefore, it is important that you understand the difference between plagiarism and proper means of utilizing resources.

**A paraphrase is...**

- your own rendition of essential information and ideas expressed by someone else, presented in a new form.
- one legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow from a source.
- a more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses concisely on a single main idea.

**Paraphrasing is a valuable skill because...**

- it is better than quoting information from an undistinguished passage.
- it helps you control the temptation to quote too much.
- the mental process required for successful paraphrasing helps you to grasp the full meaning of the original.

**6 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing:**

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside; write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you envision using this material. At the top of the note card write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Social Studies Fair Research Plan

Name \_\_\_\_\_

A. The category of my project is

\_\_\_ Anthropology (Culture developed by people living and thinking together)

\_\_\_ Economics (Wants and needs satisfied by people laboring)

\_\_\_ Geography (People and nature interact)

\_\_\_ History (The continuous narrative of human progress)

\_\_\_ *Kentucky* History (The history of *Kentucky* is long and rich.)

\_\_\_ Political Science (Group living regulated by social control)

\_\_\_ Sociology (People living in groups)

B. My question or problem is

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C. The purpose of my project is

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D. Bibliography: List at least five (5) major references (e.g., articles, books, internet sites) from your literature review. Identify each resource as a primary or secondary source.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

# Bardstown Elementary School Social Studies ~ Academic Fair Scoring Rubric

Category (Circle One)    Anthropology    Economics    History    KY History    Political Science    Sociology

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	4 (Excellent)	3 (Good)	2 (Fair)	1 (Unacceptable)	TOTAL POINTS
A Knowledgeable Competent Person (Research)	The student acquired and analyzed new knowledge while completing in-depth research of a chosen topic. A variety of resources were used to complete the project.	The student acquired and analyzed new knowledge while completing research on a chosen topic. A variety of resources were used to complete the project.	The student acquired new knowledge while completing research on a chosen topic. Minimal resources were used to complete the project.	The student did not acquire new knowledge while completing research on a chosen topic. No resources were used to complete the project.	
An Effective Communicator (Oral Presentation)	The student was able to develop and deliver clear, concise key messages and use verbal and presentation skills effectively.	The student was able to present key messages in a clear manner but lacked some details and/or verbal/presentation skills.	The student was unable to present key messages in a clear manner. Verbal/presentation skills were marginal.	The student was unable to present key messages and lacked verbal/presentation skills.	
A Creative Producer (Presentation Display)	The student demonstrates creativity and produces an original product. The display is self-explanatory; it reflects thought, research, and organization; and it is neat and attractive.	The student produces an original product. The display is self-explanatory but lacks one of the following: thought, research, organization, and/or neatness.	The student produces a product. The display lacks two or more of the following: thought, research, organization, and/or neatness.	The display is unattractive and does not reflect thought, research, organization, and/or neatness; or the student does not produce a product.	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>					

Comments:

**SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR ENTRY FORM**  
**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher's Name : \_\_\_\_\_

**Category:** (Check One)

\_\_\_ **Anthropology** (Culture developed by people living and thinking together)

\_\_\_ **Economics** (Wants and needs satisfied by people laboring)

\_\_\_ **History** (The continuous narrative of human progress)

\_\_\_ **Kentucky History** (The history of Kentucky is long and rich.)

\_\_\_ **Political Science** (Group living regulated by social control)

\_\_\_ **Sociology** (People living in groups)

**TITLE OF PROJECT** \_\_\_\_\_

Give a brief description of the project:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all Social Studies Fair rules and regulations. This project is completely mine and was created and completed by me within the last 12 months without direct, significant aid or assistance from anyone other than myself. Parental involvement in the project was limited to those aspects of the project that are consistent with the Social Studies Fair regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature