

Teachers: Please give this information to your students regarding the 2011-2012 Social Studies Fair.
Information includes categories, rules, abstract and general information.

(Use this space for your School Fair information)

2011-2012 Social Studies Fair

Meadowbrook Mall

Friday, February 3, 2012 – Project Set-up 3:00pm-6:00-pm

Saturday, February 4, 2012 – Judging of Projects 9:00am-11:30am

Awards Ceremony 1:00pm

Removal of Projects: 1:30pm-2:00pm

Social Studies Fair Categories

Anthropology is the study of how culture is developed by people living, thinking, and working together. This category examines issues related to how a particular group of people view the world; how they do things and the mind sets they use to understand the world.

Economics is the study of how people labor to satisfy human wants and needs. This category examines issues related to the production and distribution of goods and services. People use a variety of economic systems to attempt to satisfy their unlimited needs and wants with limited resources.

Geography is the study of how the earth and its features interact with the effects of human activity. This category focuses on the relationship between people and their environment. Our environment influences our lifestyle and culture, provides opportunities and imposes limitations. In addition, people influence the environment. Geography studies the physical and cultural elements of the environment, as well as the interaction between the elements.

Political Science is the study of how groups develop and use different structures to govern their lives. This category deals with the study of the processes, principles and structures of government, political institutions, and the study of law making and law enforcement.

Psychology is the study of mental processes and behaviors. This category investigates human behavior as it is influenced by an individual or a group. It examines both inherited and socially influenced behaviors.

Sociology is the study of human social behavior. This category investigates both the behavior of groups and the behavior of individuals as members of groups.

State and Local Studies is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, a state, a county, an event or an institution. This category records and explains past and present events of a local area or of West Virginia in general. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and the present.

U.S. History is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, an event or an institution within the United States. This category records and explains various aspects of the history of the United States. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and the present.

World History is the study of the life and development of an individual, a people, a country, an event or an institution. This category records and explains various aspects of the history of areas outside of the United States. It investigates the interrelationship between cause and effect, continuity and change, and other factors that historians use as they try to understand the past and present.

Social Studies Fair Categories (Continued)

International To participate in this category, students must work alongside two or more students from a school in another country to investigate and research a problem, issue, condition, or historical event, then determine action(s) that could be taken to improve a mutual problem or current global issue. Students must consider a variety of perspectives in addition to their own and those of their counterparts, then determine how to communicate those perspectives through an oral presentation with the help of a project display board and/or multimedia presentation.

Classifying Your Projects

Projects are classified using three descriptors: Division, Category, and Type. Before you begin your project, make sure that you have identified your Division, selected your Category, and decided on the Type of presentation that you want to give.

Division:

First, identify your division.

Division I (grades 4-5)

Division II (grades 6-8)

Division III (grades 9-12)

Classifying Your Projects (Continued)

Category:

Next, select the category that interests you the most.

1. Anthropology
2. Economics
3. Geography
4. Political Science
5. Psychology
6. Sociology
7. State and Local Studies
8. U.S. History
9. World History
10. International (Small group only; not specific to a social science category; refer to rules and regulations concerning this type of project.)

Type:

Finally, determine the type of presentation you want to create and deliver.

Individual - Only one person worked on the project and will present it alone.

Small Group - Two to six students worked on project and will present the project together.

Individual Work

If you work alone, you must remember that you will be doing all of the work by yourself. Working alone can be beneficial because you can manage your own time and make all of the decisions about the project without consulting with anyone else. You will give your oral presentation to the judges by yourself.

Working With a Group

If you decide to collaborate with a group, there will be one or more other students working with you. Together you will choose the theme to be investigated as well as the process of research, the materials for your display, and your methods of communication and presentation to the judges. You should work together to write out a schedule for the completion of different responsibilities and your meeting times. Having these things written down will prevent misunderstandings later on and will help you meet your deadlines. Working with others is fun, and you have the creativity, talents, and knowledge of others to improve the project. You will learn from each other. **Each student is required to deliver a part of the presentation in a small group project** (traditional or international).

Whether working alone or in a group, you should be prepared because sometimes things do not get finished on time due to unforeseen emergencies. You must plan ahead and plan to finish before the deadline. That way, if you need extra time then you will have it.

Project Ideas

Anthropology

Many Factors Determine the Differences between the Pueblo and the Cherokee
The Influence of Technology on the Amish Culture

Economics

Sports Cards Have Value
The Effect of Low-Fat Diets on the Snack Industry

Geography

Global Warming Affects You and Me
West Virginia Has Been Popular Among German Immigrants

Political Science

The Media Influences Election Races
Checks and Balances Among the Three Branches of Government

Psychology

Phobias Can Rule a Person's Life
Roadside Memorials Can Give Comfort to the Grieving

Sociology

Stereotyping Causes Many Assumptions
The Refugee Impact on a Society

State and Local Studies

West Virginia State Parks Bring Recreation to Tourists and Locals Alike
Women Writers of West Virginia Have Contributed Much to Our Libraries

U.S. History

The Civilian Conservation Corps Aided in the Employment of Citizens During the Depression
The Leaders on Both Sides of the Battle of the Alamo Determined the Fate of Texas

World History

Gen. Douglas MacArthur Crafted the Foundation of the Japan We Know Today
The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain Brought Change to the Lives and the Work of People Around the World

International

Threats of Climate Change on Their Own Regions
Environmental Sustainability
Energy Production