



Social Studies+ Digital Tools=Engagement

Minneapolis Public Schools

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Best Practice in Social Studies Digital Engagement

- **Use digital tools to engage students in traditional topics and projects**
“Using Weebly.com to build websites has worked well as an alternative to a traditional report or project. We have also used bibme.org to make annotated bibliographies.” Tom Lachermeier
- **Use digital tools to provide an ‘authentic audience’ for student work**
“In Geography we have focused on using Google docs to write essays, share them with peers for peer review and teachers for further review.” Tom Lachermeier
- **Use digital tools to teach collaboration skills**
“We have students use Google presentations so they can simultaneously work on projects.” Tom Lachermeier
- **Use digital ‘e-text’ to promote historical analysis**
“I think that the digitalization of primary documents really allows history to become more real for students. When they can see the actual handwriting and words of the people they are studying about, it makes it come alive for students.” Rachel Sebold
- **Use online documents to foster critical thinking**
“One benefit of studying primary sources is the development of critical thinking. Students as historians can draw their own conclusions based on evidence.” Rachel Sebold