

SOCIAL STUDIES TASK CARD

Task: Analyzing Graphic Data and Images

Analyzing a Graph

Basic steps:

1. Read the title.
2. Read the labels and the legend, if any.
3. Look for similarities, differences, increases or decreases.
4. Make a general statement about what the graph shows.

Questions:

- What is the title of the graph?
- What do the labels or legend show?
- What type of graph is this? (bar, circle, line)
- What similarities or differences are shown on the graph?
- What increases or decreases are shown on the graph?
- What is the graph measuring or showing?

Analyzing Images

Basic Steps:

1. Ask who or what the image is showing.
2. Ask when and where the scene takes place.
3. Ask what general feeling you get from the image.
4. Ask who created the image and why.

Questions:

- What is the caption of the image?
- Is the image a painting, photograph, poster, cartoon or sculpture?
- When and/or where does the scene take place?
- What details stand out in the image?
- What people, places or things do you recognize in the image?
- What mood (happiness, sadness, fear, patriotism, etc.) do you get from the image?
- Who created this image?
- Why was this image created?

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Task: Supporting a Position

Basic steps:

1. Support your position clearly in a sentence.
2. Identify at least three reasons.
Think of what will best persuade your audience.
Think of reasons for your side or against the other side.
3. Support each reason with accurate evidence.
4. Put your reasons and supporting evidence in an effective order.
5. Add a conclusion.

Questions:

- What is your position on this issue/article/political candidate, etc.?
- What are three reasons you feel this way?
- What are some arguments you might make if someone disagrees with your position?
- What evidence do you have to support your position?
- How can you best sum up your position in a concluding statement?

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Task: Analyzing Primary and Secondary Sources

Basic steps:

1. Identify who created the source, when, and why.
2. Identify the main idea.
3. Separate facts from opinions. What do you learn from each?
4. Look for evidence of bias, or a one-sided view, often expressed in emotionally "charged" words.
5. Evaluate how reliable the source is.

Questions:

- Who created the source?
- When and why was the source created?
- Is this a primary source or a secondary source?
- What is the main idea presented in the source?
- What are some examples of facts presented in the source?
- What are some examples of opinions presented in the source?
- Are there any examples of bias in the source?
- Is this a reliable source? What are the criteria you used to judge whether or not this is a reliable source?

Primary Source: information from someone who actually experienced what is being described. Examples are diaries, letters, autobiographies, photos, paintings, recordings, video tapes, interviews.

Secondary Source: Information from someone who did not experience what is being described. Examples are biographies, history books, articles, textbooks, encyclopedias.

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Task: Recognizing Bias

Recognizing Bias

Basic steps:

1. Judge if any facts are incorrect or left out.
2. Look for emotionally charged words that sound good or bad.
3. Identify who expresses the bias and why.
4. State the bias in your words.
5. Determine how the bias affects the information.

Questions:

- Do any of the facts seem incorrect? Was any important information left out?
- What are some examples of emotionally-charged words in the passage/article/story?
- Who expresses bias in the passage/article/story? Why might that individual be biased?
- How might you restate the biased words?
- How does the bias in the passage/article/story affect the information presented?

Recognizing Propaganda

Basic steps:

1. Identify exaggerations or information that is ignored.
2. Identify emotional appeals, such as symbols, "charged" words, or the sense of belonging to a group.
3. Identify who created the propaganda and why.
4. Determine if the propaganda seems effective.

Questions:

- What are some examples of exaggerated information in this document, advertisement, etc.?
- Is there any information that is left out, but should be included?
- What are some examples of the use of emotional appeals?
- Who created this and for what purpose?
- Is this passage/story/article/advertisement/slogan effective?

Bias: a one-sided or slanted view.

Propaganda: the spreading of one-sided information to influence public opinion and action. The propaganda is used in advertising and politics.