Conflicts Analysis

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grade Levels: 7 – 12 (ages 12 - 18)

Time: At least two 45-minute class periods; time outside of class as necessary.

Lesson Objective:
Students will research a significant conflict in history or the contemporary world and use Webspiration Classroom™ to help them better organize and think critically about the information.

Common Core State Standards¹:

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading:

Standard 7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing:

Standard 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:
Conflicts arise over power struggles between two or more parties. Use the Conflict Analysis template (Webspiration Classroom Starter>Starter Docs>Social Studies>Conflict Analysis) to help students better understand the reasons for a conflict, the parties involved and areas of possible compromise. Completed diagrams can then be used as visual aids in class presentations.

© 2011 Inspiration Software, Inc. You may use and modify this lesson plan for any non-commercial, instructional use.
Preparation:
• This lesson requires Internet access and the Webspiration Classroom software application published by Inspiration® Software, Inc. It can be accessed by visiting <http://www.webspirationclassroom.com>.
• Access to library resources would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:
1. Ask students to define the word “conflict” and give examples of conflicts happening around the world or in their own lives. Tell students that they will use Webspiration Classroom to help them better understand a conflict, the parties involved and areas of possible compromise. Open the Conflict Analysis template and talk students through it so they understand the assignment. Tell students that completed diagrams will be used as visual aids during class presentations.

2. Open the example file (Webspiration Classroom Starter>Examples>Social Studies>Conflict Analysis Example) and talk the students through it, as well, so they know what is expected.

3. Explain that students will be adding visual symbols, as well as text, to their diagrams. Adding symbols will help them and their readers to better understand and remember the content. Optional: Additional graphics can be inserted into diagrams via the Edit menu.

4. Be sure to point out how additional information was added in Notes. This information can be most quickly shown in Outline View.
5. Students should be organized into groups of 2-3 to complete the project. Groups will then choose a conflict to research. You may want to provide a list of acceptable topics, or you may have groups choose a conflict and then submit their proposals for review.

6. Student groups can collaborate on their diagram and obtain feedback from the teacher using the collaboration tools. Documents can be shared with others using the **Collaborate** tab. The **Comment** tab can be used to comment on the document, or the **Chat** tab can be used, if it is turned on at your school, to discuss ideas in real time.

7. Encourage students to add **Hyperlinks** to their sources of information, including any multimedia files available on the Internet.

8. Inform students they can use **Notes** to add additional information as they complete the project. They can go to **Outline View** to finish organizing their information.

9. Have students “publish” their work by making presentations to the class using a data projector or interactive whiteboard, if one is available, to display their diagrams as a visual aid during the presentation.
   - Notes can be turned on and off by clicking the **Note Quick Controls** in the upper-right corner of the icon with the note.
   - Subtopics can be hidden or viewed using the **Subtopic Quick Controls** to allow focused attention on the topics being discussed.

**Adaptations / Extensions:**

- Students can download their project to Inspiration® or a word processor, or transfer it to a Google Doc, to complete a written report about their conflict. Students might limit the scope of a written paper by developing a thesis statement. For example, they could develop a thesis related to the areas of possible compromise they uncovered.
- Webspiration Classroom may be used to create more detailed chronologies of important developments in the history of the conflict. The **Chronology** template is useful for this extension: Webspiration Classroom Starter>Starter Docs>Social Studies>Chronology.