All Social Studies Moves

Please see the following tables to view all social studies mentor texts pertaining to each mini move.

Moves That Introduce: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Just-the-Facts	A nearly 60-foot replica of a 4,000-year-old boat—complete with a sail made from goat hair— recently launched off the coast of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. According to a statement from Zayed University, the vessel passed numerous trials over two days at sea. It journeyed 50 nautical miles in the Arabian Gulf, reaching speeds of up to 5.6 knots (6.4 miles per hour). —Julia Binswanger (2024), "This Bronze Age Ship Replica, Made From Reeds and Goat Hair, Just Sailed 50 Nautical Miles," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>
Make the Case	President Biden's most significant failure during his first two years in office is the lack of progress on the truly domestic portion of his domestic agenda. Earlier in the pandemic, the federal government did more to help parents than it ever did before. Washington temporarily mandated paid leave for many workers, it gave billions of dollars in aid to child care businesses, and for several glorious months in 2021, it even expanded the child tax credit to provide assistance to most families with children. –Binyamin Appelbaum (2023), "And Child Care for All," The New York Times
What They Said	"Millennials are many things, but above all, they are murderers," <i>Mashable</i> noted in 2017, introducing a list of 70 items and institutions that Millennials were purported to have "killed," including napkins, breakfast cereal, department stores, the 9-to-5 workday, and marriage. The list was tongue-in-cheek—the cereal aisle persists—but it captured something essential about a generation that has reshaped old habits of American life. Even amid this slaughter of tradition, Millennials are best known for another characteristic: how broke they are. Millennials, it's often said, are the first American generation that will do worse than its parents financially. —Jean M. Twenge (2023), "The Myth of the Broke Millennial," <i>The</i> <i>Atlantic</i>
Scene-Drop	The sky above the Mississippi River stretched out like a song. The river was still in the windless afternoon, its water a yellowish-brown from the sediment it carried across thousands of miles of farmland, cities, and suburbs on its way south. At dusk, the lights of the Crescent City Connection, a pair of steel cantilever bridges that cross the river and connect the east and west banks of New Orleans, flickered on. Luminous bulbs ornamented the bridges' steel beams like a congregation of fireflies settling onto the backs of two massive, unbothered creatures. A tugboat made its way downriver, pulling an enormous ship in its wake. The sounds of the French Quarter, just behind me, pulsed through the brick sidewalk underfoot After the transatlantic slave trade was outlawed in 1808, about a million people were transported from the upper South to the lower South. More than one hundred thousand of them were brought down the Mississippi River and sold in New Orleans. –Clint Smith (2021), How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America, p. 3
Then-and-Now	When up to 190,000 Russian soldiers invaded Ukraine last February, even its most ardent foreign supporters expected the nation's far more limited defenses would collapse within days. But one year later, Russia has lost a reported 200,000 men, including many high-ranking military officials, and President Vladimir Putin has been embarrassed by the Ukrainian Army's successes and the resilience of Ukraine's many citizen militias. –Christina Pazzanese (2023), "One Year Later: How Does Ukraine War End?," <i>The Harvard Gazette</i>

Moves That Make a Claim: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
The Big Idea	Washington's message was this mandate: We must guard our inheritance. –Alexis Coe (2023), "How George Washington Wrote His Farewell Address," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>
Outline It	The history of American barbecue is as diverse as the variations themselves, charting the path of a Caribbean cooking style brought north by Spanish conquistadors, moved westward by settlers, and seasoned with the flavors of European cultures. –Natasha Geiling (2023), "The Evolution of American Barbecue," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>
This-and-That	This spindly labyrinth of a swamp holds both the costs of slavery and the prices paid to resist it. –Lex Pryor (2022), "The Hidden and Eternal Spirit of the Great Dismal Swamp," <i>The Ringer</i>
Not-This-But-That	What should have been a moment of political danger for Trump instead has become another stage for him to demonstrate his dominance within the party. —Ronald Brownstein (2023), "Why Trump Might Just Roll to the Presidential Nomination," <i>The Atlantic</i>
Synthesize It	Instead of following the Soviet model of development, which leaned heavily towards industry alone, China would "walk on two legs": the peasant masses were mobilized to transform both agriculture and industry at the same time, converting a backward economy into a modern communist society of plenty for all. –Frank Dikötter (2011), Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958–1962, p. xi

Moves That Define: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
It Is What It Is	The Great Chain of Being is, perhaps, the most ancient metaphorical device for organizing nature and society. God and the angels sit on top with matter in all its forms scaled downward: humans in order of their ranks and occupations; followed by birds, fish, and beasts; then trees and other plants; and finally rocks and earthen things. –Steven Stoll (2008), "Pattern Recognition," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Say My Name	Until the early 20th century, it was standard practice to assemble all-female juries, called "juries of matrons," to determine whether a woman was pregnant and could therefore avoid hanging for capital offenses. –Alice Neikirk (2024b), "How All-Female 'Juries of Matrons' Shaped Legal History," <i>The Conversation</i>
Keep It Appositive	The great French historian and resistance martyr, Marc Bloch, is supposed to have said that history was like a knife: You can cut bread with it, but you could also kill. –Fritz Stern (2008), "Imperial Hubris," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Gimme an Example	A large number were public figures—influential lawyers, journalists, playwrights or physicians, some of whom were the only women in their fields—and often had their names in the papers for the work they were performing. —Laura Kiniry (2024), "The All-Woman Secret Society That Paved the Way for Modern Feminism," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>
Engage With Etymology	As the industrial historian S. Martin Gaskell [1980] writes in an article titled "Gardens for the Working Class: Victorian Practical Pleasure," the word "garden" denoted: on the one hand, something that was the personal and private preserve of the upper classes, whether in immediate proximity to the great house or in locked London square, or, on the other, a place of gratification and amusement, frequently associated with a drinking establishment, nearly always a scene of dissipation, and more than usually of ill-repute. These competing interpretations—one gesturing toward the hidden and secretive, one toward a general debauchery—made gardens a suitable locale for crime and detective fiction, genres that, aside from providing suspense and intrigue, have long been concerned with exploring the darker sides of industrialization, urbanization, and modernization—and indeed humanity itself. —Tim Brinkhof (2024), "What Do Gardens and Murder Have in Common?," <i>JSTOR Daily</i>

Moves That Describe: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Describing Lists	The parade included parents who had served prison terms for noncompliance, a cart filled with unvaccinated children, an open hearse bearing a child's coffin inscribed ANOTHER VICTIM OF VACCINATION, doctors riding backward on cows, and an effigy of vaccine pioneer Edward Jenner that was eventually hanged and decapitated. –Nadja Durbach (2023), "Our Medical Liberties," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Say It Again, But Make It Specific	The old representative democracy is starting to crack up. In its place there is a digital or direct democracy. By email or tweet, small bands of vigilantes can track down our representatives and cling, Fury-like, until they vote the right way. —Thomas Geoghegan (2020), "In the People's House There Are Many Mansions," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Dash That Describes	After the first day of battle, Meade replaced Abner Doubleday, commander of I Corps and a staunch Republican, with a more junior Democratic officer—a move that prompted criticism from within his own ranks. —Nicholas Liu (2023), "After Winning the Battle of Gettysburg, George Meade Fought With—and Lost to—the Press," <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>
Let's Imagine	Imagine a heated prehistoric game of basketball where the two teams, the Skins and the Furs, use an inflated mammoth bladder for the ball. One player jams his finger and notes that it is pointing sideways. Instinctively, he yanks on it and successfully realigns the dislocation. Next week a teammate incurs the same injury, and the experienced one performs the same restorative maneuver. Over time he continues to learn from experience and achieves local acclaim as the go-to bonesetter. These skills are then passed down to his children. These bonesetters, along with shamans, midwives, and herbalists, developed in many cultures, including ancient Egypt and early Hawaii. –Roy A. Meals (2020), "A Brief History of Surgeons," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Figurative Language Comparison	Celebrity culture is religion in disguise. It pretends to be junk while giving us the sustenance that we need. Celebrities live like gods; they act like gods. They dwell in the dark recesses of our souls where we crave the images of gods. In the aisles of the supermarkets they stare down at us like the saints and gargoyles that once crowded the cornices of medieval cathedrals with the iconography of suffering, or like sculptures in Hindu temples that celebrate birth, sex, death, rebirth. –Stephen Marche (2011), "Consumer Products," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>

Moves That Provide Evidence: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Hyperlink Layers	When it comes to war, American leaders have a long history of deceiving the public. In light of the Congressional introduction of the <u>Executive Accountability Act in 2009</u> , scholar Louis Fisher examines a <u>record of misleading statements by US presidents used to justify conflicts</u> , including the <u>Mexican-American</u> , <u>Spanish-American</u> , <u>Vietnam</u> , and <u>Iraq</u> wars. –Matthew Wills (2024), "Using False Claims to Justify War," <i>JSTOR Daily</i>
Reference a Visual	Ahead of the first workshop SNCC organizers also disseminated cartoon storybooks in an effort to reach those unable to read. The storybooks used simple, hand-drawn figures to depict the responsibilities of county officeholders and to describe the potential power of African American elected officials. The cartoon about the sheriff showed a black police officer reviewing jailhouse records with the public and appointing black poll inspectors. —Hasan Kwame Jeffries (2010), Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt, p. 155 [This cartoon's top-left panel shows a hand paying "\$1.00 for making finger prints." The top-right panel illustrates a hand signing multiple ballots, with the caption indicating the sheriff keeps a record of his work and gets his money. The middle-left panel shows a man and a group of voters, with the caption stating, "The sheriff helps with the county, state and federal elections." The middle-right panel reads that the "sheriff probate judge and the circuit clerk are the election appointing board for the courts." The bottom-left panel shows a man surrounded by others, saying, "Are all of you registered?" with the caption, "Those appointed must be registered voters" (Gemini, 2025).]
The Fold In	Unlike most of the anti-slavery movement's white leaders, Birney was a southerner and an enslaver when he joined the cause. To navigate this conflicted position and complicated questions of emancipation and colonization, Birney turned to study. He "read almost every work [he] could lay his hands on" in the winter of 1833 and spring of 1834 and was transformed by what he read. –Marcy Dinius (2024), "The Power of Pamphlets in the Anti-Slavery Movement," <i>JSTOR Daily</i>
Paraphrase It	 Quote from "Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments" by James Madison (1785): Whilst we assert for ourselves a freedom to embrace, to profess and to observe the Religion which we believe to be of divine origin, we cannot deny an equal freedom to those whose minds have not yet yielded to the evidence which has convinced us. If this freedom be abused, it is an offence against God, not against man: To God, therefore, not to man, must an account of it be rendered. Mentor text: James Madison believed that an established religion—a church whose doctrines were guaranteed and enforced by state law—did harm both to religion and to free government, and he found it abhorrent to imagine God being twisted to fit political expediency: this was, he said, to throw religion to the wolves. —Elisabeth Sifton (2010), "Church and State in America," Lapham's Quarterly
End With Analysis	 This issue came to a head in 2007 when the Los Angeles Times concluded an investigation into the investment practices of foundations by revealing that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded a polio vaccination clinic in Ebocha, Nigeria, in the shadow of a giant petroleum-processing plant in which the Gates Foundation was invested. The Los Angeles Times report states: But polio is not the only threat Justice [a Nigerian child] faces. Almost since birth, he has had respiratory trouble. His neighbors call it "the cough." People blame fumes and soot spewing from flames that tower 300 feet into the air over a nearby oil plant. It is owned by the Italian petroleum giant Eni, whose investors include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Despite the intense criticism at the time, the Gates Foundation did not change its course. An investigation of the Gates Foundation's tax return for 2013 performed by <i>The Guardian</i> revealed that the foundation held \$1.4 billion of investment in fossil-fuel companies including BP and Anadarko (the latter of which was recently forced to pay \$5 billion in environmental cleanup charges). –Curtis White (2015), "Philanthropy in the End Times," Lapham's Quarterly

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Moves That Summarize: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Define and Detail	On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 (also known as the Partition Resolution) that would divide Great Britain's former Palestinian mandate into Jewish and Arab states in May 1948. Under the resolution, the area of religious significance surrounding Jerusalem would remain under international control administered by the United Nations. The Palestinian Arabs refused to recognize this arrangement, which they regarded as favorable to the Jews and unfair to the Arab population that would remain in Jewish territory under the partition. –Office of the Historian (n.d.), "The Arab-Israeli War of 1948"
Pivot Synopsis	When Jefferson became president in 1801, he used his first Annual Message to Congress to remind fellow citizens of America's lasting importance as an asylum. America came into existence because emigrants exercised their freedom to form a country of their own. The fight for this freedom was not only a convenient origin story—it was America's perpetual purpose. — Stephanie DeGooyer (2022), "The Right to Leave," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
The Devil in the Details	Take one of the most glaring recent examples, the court's June 2022 decision striking down a century-old New York law requiring gun owners to obtain a permit to carry a gun in public. New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen was decided 6 to 3, with all the Republican-appointed justices joining the majority opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas. It was the court's most transformative gun rights case since <i>Heller</i> , and like that earlier case, it featured the rightwing justices' playing amateur historians, cherry-picking and distorting evidence from decades or centuries ago to justify their existing opinions—a practice real historians refer to derisively as law-office history. —Jesse Wegman (2024), "The Crisis in Teaching Constitutional Law," The New York Times
Cause and Effect Sandwich	The Richmond Bread Riot, which took place in the Confederate capital of Richmond on April 2, 1863, was the largest and most destructive in a series of civil disturbances throughout the South during the third spring of the American Civil War (1861-1865). By 1863, the Confederate economy was showing signs of serious strain. Congress's passage of an Impressment Act, as well as a tax law deemed "confiscatory," led to hoarding and speculation, and spiraling inflation took its toll, especially on people living in the Confederacy's urban areas. When a group of hungry Richmond women took their complaints to Virginia governor John L. Letcher, he refused to see them. Their anger turned into a street march and attacks on commercial establishments. Only when troops were deployed and authorities threatened to fire on the mob did the rioters disperse. More than sixty men and women were arrested and tried, while the city stepped up its efforts to relieve the suffering of the poor and hungry. –Mary DeCredico (2021), Bread Riot, Richmond," <i>Encyclopedia Virginia</i>
Quote It to Me	Hardly anyone noticed this summer when former president Jimmy Carter explained why he had decided to leave the Baptist Church. However "painful and difficult," wrote Carter in an essay that appeared in the <i>Guardian</i> , his break with the denomination to which he had belonged for sixty years had begun to seem like the only possible response to past opinions expressed and codified by the Southern Baptist Convention. –Francine Prose (2010), "The Original Sin," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>

Moves That Contextualize: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Let's Compare	Furthermore, daily sin, wealth, and almsgiving were drawn together by a half-hidden homology. Augustine always stressed the way in which daily sin piled up, in and around the human person in a largely unconscious manner–like sand, like drops of water, like fleas. –Peter Brown (2015), "Treasure in Heaven," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Double Date	During the seven decades of legal Jim Crow segregation from the 1890s through the 1960s, the principal goal of the southern states at the core of red America was defensive: They worked tirelessly to prevent federal interference with state-sponsored segregation but did not seek to impose it on states outside the region. –Ronald Brownstein (2022), "America Is Growing Apart, Possibly for Good," <i>The Atlantic</i>
Show Me the Data	More than 1.8 million Muslims participated in the hajj this year, 1.6 million of them from outside Saudi Arabia, according to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics. They encountered scorching temperatures that ranged from 108 Fahrenheit to 120, according to preliminary data. –Cassandra Vinograd and Vivian Nereim (2024), "More Than 1,000 Hajj Pilgrims Died. Here's What to Know," <i>The New York Times</i>
Educated Inference	Late in her childhood, Pocahontas likely joined Powhatan's large, busy household, where everybody worked, even Powhatan himself. In addition to their daily jobs, members of the household labored to produce grand feasts on important occasions. Pocahontas, meanwhile, probably participated in what was traditionally women's work–farming, collecting wild foods and firewood, making utensils, and cooking and cleaning. –Helen Rountree (2024), "Pocahontas (d. 1617)," <i>Encyclopedia Virginia</i>
Past and Present Connection	The first modern Olympic Games took place in Athens in 1896, thanks to the organizational efforts of one Pierre de Coubertin, a French baron who foresaw the value of a multinational sporting competition. "Olympism is not a system," Coubertin once said. "It is a state of mind." Ahead of the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, here are nine surprising facts about the famed ancient sporting competition that inspired both Coubertin and later iterations of the Games. —Sonja Anderson (2024), "Nine Things You Didn't Know About the Ancient Olympic Games," Smithsonian Magazine

Moves That Add Voice: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Say It Slang	When I ran in the House primary in 2009 and got clobbered, I used to wonder: How could I justify going to Washington, DC, for two years and claiming to represent 600,000 people back in Chicago? —Thomas Geoghegan (2020), "In the People's House There Are Many Mansions," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Ask a Question	Inside the White House, the subject of immigration, and especially the border, is seen as politically risky; there's a refrain among advisers that a good day for the President is one without immigration in the news. Why, then, did Biden decide to issue a proclamation reasserting that there was a crisis when he'd actually been managing to keep it at bay? –Jonathan Blitzer (2024), "What's Behind Joe Biden's Harsh New Executive Order on Immigration?," The New Yorker
Put It in Parentheses	For the next fourteen years he slaved singlemindedly with a team of assistants in a room provided by Clarendon, Oxford's press (no doubt with, in Oxford dialect, his oak sported—his door shut firm). —Simon Winchester (2012), "Native Tongues," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Connect Personally	I became newly worried about the state of democracy when, a few years ago, my mother was elected president of her neighborhood garden club. Her election wasn't my worry—far from it. At the time, I was trying to resolve a conflict on a large email group I had created. Someone, inevitably, was being a jerk on the internet. I had the power to remove them, but did I have the right? I realized that the garden club had in its bylaws something I had never seen in nearly all the online communities I had been part of: basic procedures to hold people with power accountable to everyone else. The internet has yet to catch up to my mother's garden club. —Nathan Schneider (2024), "Why the Future of Democracy Could Depend on Your Group Chats," <i>The Conversation</i>
Make It Metaphorical	America's democracy is divided resentfully against itself across the frontiers of race, gender, ethnicity, and class. Vicious slander streams through the hydra-headed portals of the internet, goading quorums of non-law-abiding citizens to hate instead of help, love, or talk to one another. –Lewis H. Lapham (2024), "Power Outage," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>

Moves That Conclude: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
What We Don't Know and What We Do	Even today, Sam continues to evolve—and Claire Jerry, a curator at the National Museum of American History, says that there is an ongoing conversation among historians and archivists about whether it's time for him to get yet another makeover. The question, as Jerry puts it, is: "How can he in fact symbolize the whole country?" Perhaps he can't—but one possible answer is to portray Uncle Sam as multiracial, and over the past decade, there has been increasing interest in creating a Black Uncle Sam. As Jerry says: "Uncle Sam will evolve along with us." —Brandon Tensley (2023), "Meet Brother Jonathan, the Predecessor to Uncle Sam," <i>Smithsonian</i> <i>Magazine</i>
What's Next?	Israel struck Beirut on Tuesday, targeting the official it blamed for Saturday's attack. Whatever Israel does next, it should be calculated to advance the national interests on all these fronts. If that means postponing a fuller response to explain its rationale, necessity and goal, so much the better. —Bret Stephens (2024), "Israel's Five Wars," <i>The New York Times</i>
Share the Last Word	The lunar poles are thought to be where most commercial activity will take place as they're thought to contain billions of litres of water ice, vital for manned stations. It could get crowded. As Ye Peijian, head of China's lunar exploration programme, recently said: "If we don't go there now, even though we are capable of doing so, then we will be blamed by our descendants. If others go, they will take over and you won't be able to go even if you want to." –Tim Marshall (2023), "The Future of Geography and Rise of Astropolitics," <i>Geographical</i>
The Bottom Line	The long history of vaccination and its opposition has taught us that the benefits of vaccines, which have become extremely safe, far outweigh the risks. But it also suggests that attending to the concerns of the targets and beneficiaries of public health initiatives is vital to the success of any policy to contain communicable diseases—which will always be with us, precisely because germs do not recognize the individual's right to bodily autonomy. —Nadja Durbach (2023), "Our Medical Liberties," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>
Solve the Problem	What it has wrought is the institutionalization of criminality What can be done? We start with the lawyers, who are not only invested with the monopolistic right to be attorneys for clients but should also be obliged, as officers of the court subject to their code of professional ethics, to be the sentinels for the administration of justice. Some are heroically assuming this august obligation to the people. But far too few of the 1.3 million lawyers in America see the rule of law for the myth it is; too few see the rule of power for the lawlessness it creates. More of them must assume the higher significance of their calling, to respond to the silent cries for justice—which nearly two centuries ago Senator Daniel Webster called "the great interest of man on Earth" and "the ligament which holds civilized beings and civilized nations together." —Ralph Nader (2018), "Land of the Lawless," <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>

Moves That Organize: Social Studies

Move	Mini-Mentor Text
Topic Sentence Transition	Dueling factions representing starkly different constituencies, policies and worldviews had come together in New York City's Madison Square Garden to tear each other apart with no plans for reconciliation or compromise.The divisions within the party were so profound that fights broke out on the convention floor and across the New York metropolitan area. —Eli Wizevich (2024b), "Why the 1924 Democratic
Hinge Transition	 "These artifacts likely haven't seen the light of day since before the American Revolution, perhaps forgotten when George Washington departed Mount Vernon to take command of the Continental Army," Bradburn added. That was in 1775. Archaeologists revisited the site as part of a privately funded \$40 million preservation project, aimed at ensuring Mount Vernon's structural integrity and slated for completion in 2026–just in time for America's 250th birthday. –Rachel Treisman (2024), "Centuries-Old Cherries Were Found at George Washington's Home. What Can They Tell Us?," NPR
	Our research, published in the International Journal of Heritage Studies, identified four key themes: locals don't want heritage reconstruction to be privileged over security they want local religious sites rebuilt as much as significant non-religious sites they want heritage sites transformed into more useful structures for the community and they want control and agency over the future of their own heritage. Benjamin Isakhan and Lynn Meskell (2024), "Reconstructing Heritage After War: What We Learned From Asking 1,600 Syrians About Rebuilding Aleppo," The Conversation
Add Subheadings	Subheadings: • The flag's beginnings • The missing pieces • Preserving a national icon at the Smithsonian –Cate Lineberry and Meilan Solly (2024), "The Real Story Behind the Star-Spangled Banner, the Flag That Inspired the National Anthem," Smithsonian Magazine
Visual Anchoring	Rissech's discovery could cast doubt on the idea that the order was exclusive to men. This woman almost certainly fought—and died—alongside the male warrior monks. Her bones show no signs of regrowth or healing around her injuries. [Screenshot of a tweet from the university leading the research showing the bones] One hypothesis suggests this mystery woman was a servant called to arms out of desperation to defend the castle against the order's Muslim opponents. Evidence of lower protein consumption than her male counterparts supports the claim that she was from a lower social class. —Eli Wizevich (2024a), "Was This Mysterious Woman a Medieval Warrior?," Smithsonian Magazine