

# Social Studies Tasks from LDC's Template Task Collection 1

## LDC Social Studies TTC1—Argumentation Task Examples

**Task 1 Social Studies Example:** After researching academic articles on censorship, write an editorial that argues your position on the use of filters by schools. Support your position with evidence from your research. L2 Be sure to acknowledge competing views. L3 Give examples from past or current events or issues to illustrate and clarify your position. (Argumentation/Analysis)

**Task 2 Social Studies Example:** How did the political views of the signers of the Constitution impact the American political system? After reading *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* write a report that addresses the question and support your position with evidence from the text. (Argumentation/Analysis)

**Task 3 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical sources on Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, write an essay that compares their political philosophies and argues who had the more lasting impact on the American political system. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts. (Argumentation/Comparison)

**Task 4 Social Studies Example:** Do Presidential policies really make a difference in the lives of Americans? After reading primary and secondary sources, write an essay that compares John F. Kennedy's New Frontier social policies with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society social policies and argues which had a more significant impact on Americans. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts. (Argumentation/Comparison)

**Task 5 Social Studies Example:** After researching articles and data on youth-related crime in your city, write an article that discusses the data and evaluates a program that claims to deter crime. Be sure to support your position with evidence from your research. (Argumentation/Evaluation)

**Task 6 Social Studies Example:** Is "utilitarianism" a viable social philosophy for the 21st century? After reading John Stuart Mill's "Essays on Utilitarianism," write an essay that discusses his "Greatest Happiness Principle" and evaluates its relevancy to today's society. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the text. (Argumentation/Evaluation)

**Task 7 Social Studies Example:** After researching government documents on term limits, write an essay that identifies a problem created by term limits and argues for a solution. Support your position with evidence from your research. L2 Be sure to examine competing views. (Argumentation/Problem-Solution)

**Task 8 Social Studies Example:** What problems did the South encounter in the post-Civil War era? After reading primary and secondary sources on the post-Civil War era, write an essay that identifies a problem related to economic issues faced by the South and argues for a solution that could have been (or was) used to aid its economic recovery. Support your position with evidence from the texts. L2 Be sure to examine competing views. L3 Give examples from past or current events or issues to illustrate and clarify your position. (Argumentation/Problem-Solution)

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**Task 9 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical documents on the period of exploration in the New World, write an essay that argues the causes of the migration from Europe and explains the effects of settlements on the formation of regional identities. What implications can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Argumentation/Cause-Effect)

**Task 10 Social Studies Example:** What ramifications does debt have for individuals and the larger public? After reading articles and data on the current credit crisis, write an editorial that argues the causes of personal debt and explains the effects on individuals and the larger public. What implications can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Argumentation/Cause-Effect)

## LDC Social Studies TTC1—Informational Task Examples

**Task 11 Social Studies Example:** After researching articles and political documents on government lobbyists, write a report that defines “lobbying” and explains who and what lobbyists are and the role they play in our political system. Support your discussion with evidence from your research. L2 What conclusions can you draw? (Informational or Explanatory/Definition)

**Task 12 Social Studies Example:** What did the authors of the American Constitution mean by “rights”? After reading the Bill of Rights, write an essay that defines “rights” and explains “rights” as the authors use it in this foundational document. Support your discussion with evidence from the text. L2 What implications can you draw? (Informational or Explanatory/Definition)

**Task 13 Social Studies Example:** After researching government and historical documents on the electoral college, write an article for your local newspaper that describes the historical significance of the electoral college. Support your discussion with evidence from your research. (Informational or Explanatory/Description)

**Task 14 Social Studies Example:** In what ways did the era of the cowboy (mid to late 1800s) influence American culture? After reading historical documents, write an essay that describes the iconic American cowboy and addresses the question. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Informational or Explanatory/Description)

**Task 15 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical documents, documentaries, and maps on the westward travels of the Donner-Reed party, write a report that relates how the Donner-Reed party survived its ordeal during the winter of 1846-47. Support your discussion with evidence from your research. (Informational or Explanatory/Procedural-Sequential)

**Task 16 Social Studies Example:** What is the process for passing a bill in the Congress? After reading political documents and articles on how Congress makes laws, write an article for the general public that relates how a bill is developed and the process it takes to get it to the floor of the Congress. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Informational or Explanatory/Procedural-Sequential)

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**Task 18 Social Studies Example:** After researching past and present news articles, photographs, and maps on your community, write a report that explains how changes over the years have influenced your neighborhood. What conclusion or implications can you draw? Cite at least three sources, pointing out key elements from each source. In your discussion, address the credibility and origin of sources in view of your research topic. Include a bibliography of sources. (Informational or Explanatory/Synthesis)

**Task 19 Social Studies Example:** What makes a speech compelling? After reading speeches from allied leaders during WWII, write an essay that explains the compelling themes of each leader and how they differed on specific issues relevant to their position and country. What conclusion or implications can you draw? Cite at least four sources, pointing out key elements from each source. Include a bibliography. (Informational or Explanatory/Synthesis)

**Task 20 Science/Social Studies Example:** After researching articles on population growth in your region, write a report that analyzes the impact of such growth on water supplies, providing evidence to clarify your analysis. What implications can you draw? Include a bibliography. (Informational or Explanatory/Analysis)

**Task 21 Social Studies Example:** What do the artifacts found at archaeological sites tell us about a civilization? After reading articles on and viewing photographs of ancient Roman sites and artifacts, write an essay that addresses the question and analyzes the main features of this civilization based on the artifacts found at various archaeological sites, providing examples to clarify your analysis. What conclusions or implications can you draw? L3 Identify any gaps or unanswered questions. Include a bibliography of your sources. (Informational or Explanatory/Analysis)

**Task 22 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical sources on the ancient communities of Egypt and the Americas, write a feature article for your student magazine that compares the architecture of each culture. (Informational or Explanatory/Comparison)

**Task 23 Social Studies:** How did the French and the American Revolutions contribute to transformations in Europe and the world? After reading historical documents, write an essay that compares how each revolution contributed to future world political and social structures. (Informational or Explanatory/Comparison)

**Task 24 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical sources on America's love of the automobile, write a report that examines causes of the expansion of the automobile in America and explains effects on America's culture. What conclusions or implications can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from your research. (Informational or Explanatory/Cause-Effect)

**Task 25 Social Studies Example:** What ramifications does debt have for individuals and the larger public? After reading articles and data on the current credit crisis, write an article that examines the causes of debt and explains the effect of individual debt on the larger economy. What conclusions or implications can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Informational or Explanatory/Cause-Effect)

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## Social Studies TTC1--Narrative Task Examples

**Task 26 Social Studies Example:** After researching guides on Washington DC, write a narrative that describes how the site was selected for the nation's capital. (Narrative/Description)

**Task 27 Social Studies Example:** What can historical accounts teach us about someone's struggle for dignity? After reading historical documents and accounts about The Trail of Tears, write a narrative article from the perspectives of a Choctaw and George Gains. L3 Use dialogue to convey multiple storylines. (Narrative/Description)

**Task 28 Social Studies Example:** After researching historical documents and maps on the Battle of Waterloo, write an account that relates the timeline and the events that caused the Emperor's military forces to lose. L2 Use imagery to develop your work. L3 Use time-frames to convey multiple storylines. (Narrative/Sequential)

**Task 29 Social Studies Example:** What place in the world would you like to visit? After reading maps and articles about a place you would like to visit, write a short narrative account that relates significant events in its history. L2 Use imagery and sensory language to develop your work. (Narrative/Sequential)

**Variation Task 29 Example:** What was it like to live in the Victorian age in England? After reading and analyzing accounts about life in the Victorian age, write an article in which you relate a year in the life of a Victorian family. L2 Use figurative language to develop your work. (Narrative/Sequential)