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| **Element of Best Practice** | **What the teacher is doing** | **What the student is doing** | **Sources or Experiences** |
| **Integrative**  Students will gain greater knowledge when history, economics, geography, political science, sociology, anthropology, archaeology, and other subjects which compromise social studies are integrated into the curriculum to give students a good look at human experience over time. | Teachers combine elements from all disciplines and use technology, communication, and reading and writing skills.  Teachers cross disciplinary boundaries to address topics that promote civic efficacy. | Students conduct inquiry, develop and display data and make judgments.  Students explore social studies content while exploring other content at the same time. | When I read *A vision of powerful teaching and Learning in Social Studies,* their comment was social studies is integrative by nature.  In my experience students can learn valuable information about other subjects including math and science when exploring social studies concepts. |
| **Value Based**  Students do not become responsible, participating citizens on their own. They learn these values in a social studies classroom. | Teachers develop values on their own and expose students to values which include democracy, freedom of speech, thought, opportunity, justice, and diversity.  Teachers should incorporate a variety of learning experiences to allow students to debate, argue, and look in depth to a topic. | Students engage in experiences that develop fair mindedness, take part in debates and discussions, and model choices they will make as a citizen.  Students need to work in brainstorming groups to develop their own ideas and opinions they are interested in. This allows the student to work at their own level and develop work they are interested in. | When I read *A Vision of Powerful Teaching and Learning in Social Studies,* their comment was, elementary learners do not become responsible citizens on their own, and they need opportunities to make decisions about principles and the rights of individuals.  When I read *Best Practice in Social Studies,* their comment was social studies evaluation must reflect the importance of students’ thinking and help prepare them to become responsible citizens. |