

Youth Voices

Youth Voices welcomes a wide range of student work that reflects meaningful social studies learning, including:

- Written Work — essays, research papers, historical narratives, persuasive arguments, poetry, and creative writing connected to social studies content
- Civic Action & Advocacy — letters to elected officials, public comment statements, community proposals, and reflections on civic engagement experiences
- Visual Art & Design — posters, infographics, maps, illustrations, and other visual representations of social studies concepts and issues
- Multimedia & Digital Projects — digital stories, podcasts, video documentaries, photo essays, and slide presentations
- Historical Inquiry Projects — research-based investigations, primary source analyses, and evidence-based arguments about historical questions
- Geographic & Economic Explorations — community mapping projects, local economic analyses, and place-based investigations
- Reflections & Personal Narratives — student reflections on learning experiences, community connections, and civic identity

Submission Guidelines:

Eligibility and Consent:

- All Youth Voices submissions must be sponsored by a current K–12 social studies educator who will serve as the submitting contact. Students may not submit work independently. Sponsoring educators are responsible for ensuring all requirements are met before submission.
- Work must be produced by currently enrolled K–12 students in the state
- Submissions may represent individual students or collaborative group work
- Written permission from a parent or guardian is required for all student contributors
- Students must be identified by first name and grade level only — no last names, school names, or identifying personal information
- By submitting, the sponsoring educator confirms that all required permissions have been obtained

Preparing Submission

- Submission is the youth writer's perspective (i.e., voice) on a social studies topic (e.g., related to history, economics, civics/government, geography, psychology, sociology, etc.)
- Include a brief educator introduction (100–150 words) describing the learning context — what students were studying, what prompted the work, and why you are submitting it

- All written work should be submitted in its original student voice; light editing for clarity is acceptable but heavy revision is discouraged
- Visual, multimedia, and digital submissions should be accompanied by a brief student or educator description of the work (50–100 words)
- Submissions should reflect completed, polished work rather than drafts