

## SOURCE E

The civic mission of social studies requires more than the acquisition of content. Since social studies has as its primary goal the development of a democratic citizenry, the experiences students have in their social studies classrooms should enable learners to engage in civic discourse and problem-solving, and to take informed civic action. We invite you to reach back into your own past to recapture the reason you were drawn to the social studies as your life endeavor. Take some time to explore this new resource to discover for yourself, *the purposes worth caring about, the processes worth engaging in, and the knowledge worth learning*. Once you do, your passion for the social studies will help you lead your students to a place where they too, will develop the moral imperative to be contributors to the world we live in and stewards of democracy to uphold and protect the rights of others.

*National Curriculum Standards for  
Social Studies: A Framework for  
Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*

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## SOURCE F

### **Thinking Like a Social Scientist**

Social scientists are driven by their questions and their desire to interpret the world around them. Given that one important skill social scientists must have is the ability to research, teaching students how to critically sift and sort information to support flexible thinking is essential. Key disciplinary features of thinking like a social scientist involve:

- Corroboration—comparing and contrasting document
- Sourcing—looking at a document’s source for possible bias due to self-interest or narrow political perspective
- Contextualization—considering the time and place a document was written had how that might affect the content or author’s perspective.