

Acknowledgement of Introductory Materials and Movie Permission Slip

I look forward to having your child in my class this year. Please have your student return this form tomorrow. Thank you in advance for your support this year.

Please acknowledge that you have received, read, and discussed with your family the following items:

- Class Syllabus
- Classroom Rules and Procedures
- Mrs. Young's Computer Use Policy
- Mrs. Young's Substitute Teacher Policy
- Movie Permission (see below)

Dear Parents,

On rare occasions during this school year, students may be given the opportunity to view movies that are rated either PG or PG-13. Examples of films that have been shown in my class during previous years include National Treasure and Rudy.

Please indicate whether or not you will allow your son or daughter to view movies with a rating of up to PG-13. If you choose to disallow this, your child will be given an alternate assignment, usually silent reading. Please return this form tomorrow. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Young

(Please check one):

I will allow my child to view videos with a rating of up to PG-13 during this school year.

I will not allow my child to view videos with a rating of up to PG-13. Please assign him/her an alternate assignment.

I acknowledge that I received, read, and discussed the above-mentioned materials with my family. I understand that all class assignments are available at <http://www.mrsyoungswebsite.com> and that no late assignments are allowed. I will visit the class web site every week to ensure that I am aware of what is happening in class. I understand that the class grade will be available through Infinite Campus, which can be accessed through the class web site. I will get my student's username and password from my student or from the office. I will view my student's class grade every week to ensure that I am aware of my student's progress.

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Mrs. Young's 8th Grade Social Studies Course Syllabus

Welcome!

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to eighth grade U.S. History! I am very much looking forward to working with you this year and helping to make this study of the past come alive.

The Course

This course is designed to teach the 8th grade Social Studies Standards. Please refer to the standards in order to fully understand the specific standards that this course entails. During this year, we will be examining the people, places, events, and ideas dating from the colonial period to the 20th century. In particular, we will be concentrating on the following:

- the birth of our nation
- the development of America's regions
- the Civil War and Reconstruction

The Assignments

The discipline of history is often said to begin with the advent of the written word; thus, both reading and writing skills will be stressed in this class. However, we will also use art, music, videos, simulations, and your creativity to make the past come to life. Following are some of the types of assignments you will be completing this year:

Homework

Homework will be assigned regularly throughout the year. I expect students to complete homework on their own and to turn it in on time. **I will not accept late assignments.** Students need to learn good habits before moving on to high school, where teachers generally do not accept any late work. Please regularly check the class web site so that you know when assignments are due. The web address is <http://www.mrsyoungsworld.com>. The website already has the class assignments listed for the entire year, with links so that students may download worksheets if necessary. Therefore, there is no excuse for not completing and handing in assignments on time.

Map Quizzes

Geography is an important field in the social sciences and often influences the historical development of areas. It is especially important as Americans to know the geography of our own country. Therefore, students will be expected to memorize the location and spelling of each of the 50 states. As a class, we will slowly work from East Coast to West Coast learning about the states and will have quizzes on the states previously covered. After all states have been learned, we will occasionally have pop quizzes to ensure that students are retaining that knowledge. Geography will also be incorporated into daily lessons throughout the year.

Projects

During each unit we cover, you will be asked to work on one or more projects which will help you get personally involved in the time period you're studying. These projects will be both individual and cooperative

in nature and will require that you spend time outside of class researching outside sources for relevant information. Historians are like detectives, searching for clues to unlock the mysteries of the past. These projects will help you develop your researching skills and will provide you with a wider variety of sources than your textbook can offer.

Tests

Tests will be based on the 8th grade Social Science Standards. Formats for the tests may include multiple-choice tests, short-answer tests, or essay tests in which you will demonstrate your understanding of the standards addressed in each unit. Please refer to your copy of the standards so that you know what you will be tested on. You will always know in advance the standard that will be assessed.

Other Stuff

Grades

Grades will be based on a point system. All assignments will be given a point value and your total will accumulate throughout the trimester. Grades will be given using the standard percent scale, where 90% equals an A-, 80% a B-, and so forth. Your grade can also be affected by such things as in-class participation, failure to complete assignments, or handing in late papers. Extra credit assignments will be given out from time to time which will give you the opportunity to enrich your learning and improve your grade. You may check your grade online using Infinite Campus at <https://icampus.mvusd.k12.ca.us/campus/morenovalley.jsp>. There is a link to the program at the school district's web site: <http://www.mvusd.net> and at my class website: <http://www.mrsyoungswebsite.com>. Grades will be updated on an ongoing basis as my schedule permits. It is your responsibility to check your grade on a regular basis.

Materials Needed

I expect you to bring the following items with you every day to ensure that you are prepared for class. **There is no excuse for not having these required items every day.**

- paper, three pens, and three #2 pencils (I prefer assignments to be completed in pen or word processed)
- Two 2-inch deep binders (1 per semester) and folder for all class materials

Participation

Your involvement in this class will make it more exciting and educational. I encourage you to raise your hand and speak up in class, work cooperatively in your team projects, and help your fellow students with their learning. Together, we can all succeed. Your active participation in this class will positively affect your grade.

Thank You!

I thank you in advance for putting forth your best effort this year. If you need help or have questions at any time, please feel free to ask - I am here to help you succeed. I am also available by e-mail at syoung@mvusd.net. Let's get ready to have a great start to the year!

Mrs. Young's Rules and Procedures

Introduction: Welcome to my Social Studies class! I look forward to working with you this year. In order to create a successful classroom environment, I have created a number of rules and procedures. I fully expect that those rules and procedures will be strictly followed; however, those students who chose to violate these rules and procedures will be subject to the discipline policy.

Classroom Rules: The class rules will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be practiced throughout the year. In addition to all school and team rules, students must:

1. Follow all directions the first time they are given.
2. Treat other people and their property with respect.
3. Leave all "perfumy substances" outside of the classroom.
4. Engage in personal grooming outside of the classroom.
5. Behave in a manner that does not interfere with anyone's ability to learn.

Discipline Policy: The discipline policy will be discussed in detail with all students on the first day of school and will be enforced throughout the year. Those students who chose not to follow the class, team, or school rules will be subject to the following policy:

1. Verbal warning
2. Written consequence
3. After class conference with teacher
4. Detention and phone call home or
5. Referral and phone call home if disruptive actions are severe or continue week after week
6. Teacher may skip or add to any steps for repeated violations, special circumstances, or for serious offenses.

Entering the classroom: Please enter the classroom without talking, keeping hands, feet, and other objects to oneself. If others are already in the room working, please do not disturb them. Please do not run and/or shout inside the classroom! Sit at your desk and immediately begin the work that is posted on the whiteboard or LCD projector.

Call to attention: When the teacher needs the attention of the class, she will give a signal at the front of the classroom. When the signal is given, please freeze, turn toward the teacher, and listen quietly to what the teacher is saying.

Talking and leaving one's seat: You may talk quietly to other students only if Mrs. Young has said okay first. Otherwise, work silently at your desk. If you need to leave your seat for any reason, give a signal and wait for my ok.

Headings: Headings on the paper shall include the student's name, period number, and the date in the upper right hand corner. An example will be posted on the board. Papers without identification will be placed in the "No Name" folder. It is each student's responsibility to correctly identify his/her work and ensure they have received credit for it.

Pencils and Pens: You should have three to four sharpened pencils and working pens with you every day. If you need to sharpen a pencil, give a signal and wait for my ok. Only one person is to be at the pencil sharpener at any one time.

Supplies: If you need to use supplies such as colored pencils, markers, glue, ruler, scissors, etc., please give a signal and wait for my okay. When you are finished, put all supplies back where they belong. Textbooks and workbooks can be retrieved from the shelves using the same method.

Questions: If you have a question during a discussion period, please raise your hand and wait quietly to be called upon. Students who call out, wave their arms wildly, make noises, or otherwise attract attention to themselves, shall not be called upon. Be prepared to be called on at random during discussions, even if you do not volunteer.

Finishing early: If you finish early, please check your work to see if it is neat, complete, and correct. If this is the case, please complete any other work from the day that you may not have had time to finish. If all work is done, please take out a book and read silently at your desk. Other options will be available at the teacher's discretion. If you are directed to other alternatives, please remember to work quietly and do not draw attention to yourself, otherwise this privilege might be taken away.

Toys: Toys are not to be brought to school as they distract a child from learning, can be stolen, broken, lost, or traded unwisely. Toys include electronic games, iPods, sporting equipment, etc. If they are found, toys will be confiscated and will be returned to the student's parent or guardian. Cell phones will be dealt with according to the school's cell phone policy (confiscated and returned to the student's parent or guardian).

Gum: You may not chew gum in my classroom. Failure to follow this rule will result in a consequence. Consequences may include copying an essay about the history of gum, being assigned detention, or being assigned to scrape gum off the campus.

Bathroom/Drinks: Students are expected to try and take care of such needs before class, during break or passing periods, and after school. Sometimes, however, it becomes necessary to use the bathroom during class time. If you need to go during class time, please give a signal, wait for my ok, then go quickly and quietly. You will owe a minute after school for every minute you are out of the room. I will refuse to let any student use the restroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class. You may get a drink after giving the signal (raise two fingers) and waiting for my ok. No one will be allowed to use the water fountain until after everyone is in the classroom and working quietly. Water bottles may be brought in, but they are not to contain ice because the ice causes condensation to form, which then makes a wet mess. Also, students who play with a water bottle like a toy will have the bottle taken away. Only one student may be at the drinking fountain at any one time, and only one student may be out using the bathroom.

Personal Grooming and "Perfumy Substances": Personal grooming, such as brushing your hair and putting on make-up, is not allowed in the classroom at any time. Also, you may not bring any "perfumy substances" (which I define as things that smell like perfume) such as body spray, very flowery deodorant, cologne, etc., into the classroom because I am allergic to them. Failure to follow this rule will result in a consequence.

Plagiarism: **Plagiarism is defined as copying work from someone else and presenting it as your own. It will not be tolerated. If Mrs. Young believes that a student has not done his or her own work, she will assess zero credit to it. If a student allows his or her work to be copied by someone, that student will also receive zero credit. Copying information from the Internet without giving proper credit is plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly.**

Office Announcements: When an office announcement is heard, please freeze and listen silently.

Emergency Procedure: I have special rules and consequences that go into effect if a fire drill, earthquake drill, or other emergency procedure occurs. The rules are: 1. You will be quiet and in a single-file line, and 2. You will not communicate with people who are not in my class that period in any way (this includes talking, waving, signaling, etc.). Should you choose to violate my emergency procedure rules, you will earn a consequence. This may include after school detention and repeated practice of the emergency procedures.

Visitors: Please treat all visitors to our classroom with courtesy and respect. In the case of substitute teachers, please refer to "Mrs. Young's Substitute Teacher Policy" for details.

Sickness: If you feel sick while in class please raise your hand and notify the teacher. Please remember, the nurse cannot give out medication not provided to the school by your parents. If you feel you are about to throw-up, please do not wait to ask, please go to the trashcan or the sink, whichever is closest, immediately! If you're absent, it is your responsibility to get any missing assignments. Check the assignment calendar on the class web site, which is at <http://www.mrsyoungswebsite.com>. Copies of assignments can also be found in the class file cabinets. If you are unsure, ask Mrs. Young.

Dismissal: Students will wait in their seats and make sure their desktops are clear, the floor around them is clean, their chairs are lined up, and then they shall sit quietly, showing that they are ready to be dismissed. Mrs. Young will dismiss the class at the appropriate time.

Other procedures shall be added as the need arises.

Together, we can create an excellent classroom environment. I look forward to working with you this year!

Mrs. Young's Substitute Teacher Policy

Introduction

As your teacher, I expect good behavior from each of my students on a daily basis. However, during the infrequent times in which I am unable to attend class and a substitute teacher has accepted the responsibility for teaching you, I expect exemplary behavior. For this reason, I have special rules and procedures for days on which I am not in the classroom. There are special rewards for students who meet my expectations and special consequences that will be earned by those students who choose to behave contrary to my expectations.

The Rules and Procedures

Whenever I am unable to attend class, I will leave detailed lesson plans regarding the work that I expect to be accomplished. I will always include more work than the time period allows so that I can be sure you are properly challenged. This work will always be able to be completed on your own, so there is no reason for you to need to talk to any other students. It is your responsibility to ensure that my substitute teacher rules and procedures are followed. Here is a detailed list of these rules and procedures:

1. You will quietly enter the classroom and silently sit in your assigned seat.
2. You will silently and independently work on the assigned tasks.
3. With approximately five minutes left in the period, the substitute teacher has been instructed to go to each student's desk and put either a good stamp or a bad stamp on your paper. This stamp reflects the quality of your behavior and your adherence to my substitute teacher rules and procedures. It is your responsibility to ensure you receive a stamp.
4. After stamping your work, the substitute teacher will immediately collect it. It is your responsibility to ensure your work is collected.
5. You will silently wait in your seat until you are dismissed by the substitute teacher and will leave the room quietly.

The Consequences

I fully expect that my substitute teacher rules and procedures will be strictly adhered to. However, those students who choose to act contrary to my rules and procedures will earn the following consequences:

1. If you received a bad stamp, no stamp, did not turn in any work, or had your name written down, you will receive a detention.
2. You will silently complete all work that is assigned during detention.
3. There is no appeal of the assigned detention.
4. Failure to attend detention will be dealt with as per the discipline policy.

The Rewards

I fully expect each of my students to adhere to my substitute teacher rules and procedures. Therefore, I plan on being able to provide rewards to those students who meet my expectations.

Conclusion

As you can see, my substitute teacher policy allows for individual accountability, providing me with a secure way of monitoring each student's behavior in my absence. This policy will result in an uninterrupted educational experience for all my classes. I thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Mrs. Young's Computer Rules

Throughout the year, students in my classes will utilize today's technology to enhance their educational experience. In order to create a positive experience for everyone involved, I have created special rules that will be followed while using the class computers or while working in the computer lab. The rules are as follows:

1. You will immediately follow any instructions given by Mrs. Young.
2. You will never bring food, liquid, or gum near any computer or into the computer lab.
3. You will only use the computer to do work directly related to the assignment given by Mrs. Young. Examples of work **NOT** related to the assignment include, but are not limited to: playing games, accessing inappropriate sites on the Internet (which includes game, music, sports sites, etc. – any site that is not directly related to the current assignment), accessing personal e-mail, etc.
4. You will never negatively impact the software on the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the software include, but are not limited to: changing the settings, deleting other students' work, applications, or shortcuts, downloading applications from the internet, introducing viruses, etc.
5. You will never negatively impact the hardware of the computer. Examples of negatively impacting the hardware include, but are not limited to: removing the track ball, damaging or removing keys, disconnecting items, inserting unauthorized items into the drives, etc.

Students who chose not to follow my rules in any way will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- Normal class / team / school consequences
- Removal from the computer lab
- Your computer privileges will be revoked for the assignment and for up to the rest of the year. You will complete the assignment (and future assignments) without the benefit of computer technology.

Your signature and the signature of your parent acknowledge that you have read and understand these rules. If you do not return the **Acknowledgement of Introductory Materials** (and the school's computer use policy) signed, you will not be able to use the computers in either my classroom or the computer lab. You will be responsible for completing any assignment given without the benefit of the computers. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Young