

Anoka Social Studies Department

Connection Points

Some students never connect their social studies classes to other parts of their lives. This is almost funny because social studies classes are about life in our school, community, and nation. Connection Points are a learning tool with which you can show your teacher how you connect the class to other parts of your life. Each week your teacher will tell you how many Connection Points you need.

Connection Points can be made orally in class or they can be turned in in written form. Points are awarded for quality. Generally, one written Connection Point has three paragraphs:

1. Describe the vocabulary word or concept that you observed on the news, in the paper, in a magazine, on a TV show, at school, at home, in the community, or from a video rental. You can get points for relating your social studies class to other classes (what teachers, speakers, and texts say).
2. Analyze how the vocabulary or concept was used. How did the vocabulary or its use help you to understand what was said or observed? How did it affect people--you, your friends?
3. React by telling if you think the effects of this concept on people or communities will be good or bad. Give your opinion on the topic. It's good. It's bad...and explain why....

The Connection Point Rule is one page of DESCRIBE, ANALYZE, REACT equals one point. Higher quality writing may get more points. Some teachers have weekly bonus words for Connection Points. Some teachers allow extra Connection Points for students who show their motivation. Some teachers give extra points for articles that 'connect' to the class if they are brought into school. Conversations with parents, friends, and teammates at work can be sources of Connection Points. Articles related to elections can provide Connections to class.

Source: Bill Mittlefehldt, social studies teacher, Anoka High School, Anoka, Minnesota