



Kentucky Department of  
**E D U C A T I O N**

**Supporting Students in Using Evidence  
Module Series Overview**

**Design of Module**

This module series contains six modules designed to support students when using evidence as required by the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies*. To understand the rationale behind the creation of this module series and discover how it may support teachers with implementing sources in the classroom, please access the [Module Series Overview Video](#). While this module series is designed in a progression, you may engage with the module section that best meets your professional learning needs.

**Compelling Question**

The Compelling Question of the Supporting Students in Using Evidence Module series is "How do I support students in communicating their own conclusions, using evidence to substantiate their claims?"

**Supporting Questions**

The supporting questions of this module series are:

- What are sources?
- How do I select sources for investigations?
- How do I adapt or excerpt sources for grade-level appropriateness so students can engage with them?
- How do I support students' comprehension of primary and secondary sources?
- How do I use students' comprehension of primary and secondary sources to demonstrate mastery of the Using Evidence standards?

**Module One: Using Evidence and the *KAS for Social Studies***

This module explains how the *KAS for Social Studies* requires students to use sources to collect evidence, evaluate, and formulate and express conclusions. This module explains that in Kentucky, anything that communicates a message can be a source. Using this definition of sources, this module explores different types of primary and secondary sources that may be utilized when designing coherent periods of learning. Educators will practice substantiating claims using evidence with a Grade 5 Sourcing Example.

**Module Two: Supporting Teachers When Selecting Sources**

This module provides guidance for teachers on how to curate source sets. Educators will examine resources from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to explore how a variety of primary and secondary sources can be utilized to support a student when investigating compelling and supporting questions. Resources are also provided for supporting educators with selecting sources for their students to use.

**Module Three: Supporting Teachers When Engaging with Complex Sources**

This module investigates source complexity. It provides guidance for adapting and excerpting sources to make them accessible to students and avoid negative impacts on social studies learning as a result of the modification.

**Module Four: What Should Students Do Before Engaging with Complex Sources?**

This module explains the importance of successfully introducing sources to students. Framing the source, generating interest, activating prior knowledge and supporting students with unknown vocabulary prior to students reading the source will support students' engagement and comprehension of the sources. Participants apply these strategies to a text-based source they may use in their classroom.

**Module Five: What Should Students Do While Engaging with Complex Sources?**

This module provides guidance for educators on how to support students while engaging with sources. This module emphasizes the importance of active reading and explains strategies for supporting students with comprehending complex sources. Participants apply these strategies to a text-based source they may use in their classroom.

**Module Six: What Should Students Do After Engaging with Complex Sources?** This module includes guidance for educators on how to support students in applying what they have learned from the source they have explored to demonstrate mastery of the Using Evidence standards of the *KAS for Social Studies*. Examples from KDE resources are provided to demonstrate different ways in which students can apply their knowledge from a source after engaging with it.