



Kentucky Department of  
**EDUCATION**

# Text-Based Writing *ACROSS DISCIPLINES*

An Expansion of Composition in the Classroom



**FALL 2023**



# What is Text-Based Writing Across Disciplines?

## What does “Text-Based Writing Across Disciplines” mean?

Defining “Text-Based Writing Across Disciplines” requires clarity around the terms “Text-Based,” “Writing” and “Across Disciplines.” “Text-Based” signals that students are engaged with complex, grade level texts throughout their learning. Most simply, writing is communicating. Student writers communicate with themselves, peers, teachers and others. Writing in the classroom can have many purposes and audiences and may be formal or informal. In the academic setting, writing can serve as a tool to promote student learning, to allow students to demonstrate their thinking and understanding of the content and/or concepts taught, and/or to share with others in a real-world setting. These types of writing are called Writing to Learn, Writing to Demonstrate Learning and Writing for Publication. “Across Disciplines” refers to using the types of writing—as defined here—in English/language arts as well as other disciplines, such as social studies, science, math and visual and performing arts.

***Each of the tasks in this resource ground students in complex, grade-level text throughout the writing process.***

## What is Reading and Writing Across Disciplines, and what is its purpose?

*Reading and Writing Across Disciplines* is an expansion of [Composition in the Classroom](#), a resource developed by reading and writing teachers to help Kentucky educators provide students with opportunities to develop into confident, independent and proficient writers. *Composition in the Classroom* and its expansions support teachers implementing existing [High-Quality Instructional Resources](#) (HQIRs) adopted by school districts as well as educators teaching in districts that have not yet adopted a primary HQIR in reading and writing. The tips, suggestions and tasks in *Composition in the Classroom* and its expansions should not replace adopted HQIRs but rather should serve to supplement instruction towards the full depth and rigor of the *Kentucky Academic Standards*. For more information regarding high-quality literacy curricula, districts and school leaders may access [The Reading and Writing Instructional Resources Consumer Guide](#), a tool for evaluating and selecting instructional resources for alignment to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing*.

*Composition in the Classroom* is organized around three modes of writing in the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Reading and Writing*, including information regarding standards-aligned instruction through Writing to Learn, Writing to Demonstrate Learning and Writing for Publication. *Reading and Writing Across Disciplines*, however, contains sample discipline-specific reading and writing tasks, organized by each of the three types of writing mentioned above. This resource is grounded in the *KAS for Reading and Writing*, which includes the Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices as well as each discipline’s content specific standards. The ten Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices are part of the *KAS for Reading and Writing*, appearing on every page of the standards document but should not be confused as additional standards. They should guide teachers in providing intentional opportunities for students to engage in deeper learning by practicing the behaviors of a literate citizen. The student practices serve as the overarching goals for literacy instruction for each student across the state. These practices are further clarified by [possible teacher and student actions](#). These actions do not define curriculum, but rather they demonstrate how teachers can provide opportunities for students to experience the literacy practices and how students will apply these practices, so they may become an innate part of life across the disciplines and beyond school. This resource aims to bring more clarity around what these practices look like in action.

While *Composition in the Classroom* primarily serves English/language arts teachers and their students, *Reading and Writing Across Disciplines* attends to the needs of all teachers and their students. Because of its widespread classroom use already, the developers chose to begin the expansion with a focus on Writing to Learn (October 2023), a professional learning space that will hopefully both affirm and stretch educators' practices. The second release added Writing to Demonstrate Learning (March 2023) and the final release will include Writing for Publication (September 2023).

*Reading and Writing Across Disciplines* provides what *Composition in the Classroom*, alone, does not. While *Composition in the Classroom* provides general characteristics of each type of writing (Writing to Learn, Writing to Demonstrate Learning and Writing for Publication) and examples of strategies teachers can implement to engage students in each of the types of writing, this expansion includes a more disciplinary, or specialized, look at writing. *Reading and Writing Across Disciplines* intends to show more precisely how to ensure opportunities for students to engage in discipline-specific literacies or learning that uses reading and writing skills specific to each field to teach or demonstrate content knowledge and for publication purposes as well. The sample tasks in *Reading and Writing Across Disciplines* represent some of the types of reading and writing experts in each field (e.g., economists, biologists, literary scholars, mathematicians, etc.) might authentically engage in to deepen their own expertise.

## **Reading and Writing TO LEARN Across Disciplines**

[Writing to Learn](#), as previously described, is an instructional strategy used to promote student learning. Teachers utilize this instructional strategy to help deepen students' understanding of the subjects they are studying, to engage students in thinking, to provide opportunities for applying, extending and developing skills, and to help students reflect on their learning. Typically, Writing to Learn is informal writing with the student as the primary audience. Rather than emphasizing formal composition skills, Writing to Learn helps students obtain content knowledge and build capacity to analyze, synthesize, comprehend and express their thinking in writing. Most simply stated, Writing to Learn is any writing students engage in that promotes learning. Therefore, Writing to Learn Across Disciplines refers to using Writing to Learn in English/language arts as well as other disciplines, such as math, science, social studies and visual and performing Arts. The first section of this expansion, Writing to Learn Across Disciplines, provides samples of Writing to Learn tasks for each discipline. Explicit reading-writing connections are intentionally present throughout the sample tasks, requiring students to read and think deeply about text, or “anything that communicates a message,” as defined by the *KAS for Reading and Writing*. Throughout the sample tasks, readers engage in passages, videos, graphs, data sets, experiments or other forms of communication while processing and documenting their learning through writing.

## Writing to Learn in Social Studies Instruction

### Implementing Writing to Learn in Social Studies Instruction

While there are many more Writing to Learn strategies that fit well in social studies classrooms, some examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Graphic organizers
- Graffiti boards
- Annotating texts
- Mind mapping
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Source Analysis sheets
- Note taking strategies (Cornell notes, etc.)
- Active reading strategies

### About the Writing to Learn in Social Studies Tasks in this Resource

The Grade 2 task requires students to identify cultural elements of the Maya through the creation of a graffiti board. Identifying the cultural elements of the Maya supports students in their investigation of the supporting question (2.I.Q.2) “How did cultural groups connect and interact in the past and today to shape the culture of modern Mexico?” as they compare this group with other diverse North American cultural groups in Mexico from the past and today.

The Grade 5 task engages students in Writing to Learn as they organize their thinking on a graphic organizer while analyzing primary and/or secondary sources to answer the supporting question, “Why did the colonists demand no taxation without representation?”

The Grade 8 Writing to Learn gives students an opportunity to analyze a primary source by using a graphic organizer to record and organize their thinking. Students will use the information learned in this Writing to Learn task to answer the supporting question, “How did the Missouri Compromise temporarily save the Union?”

The World History for Grades 9-10 task requires students to corroborate sources to understand how continuities in the desire for cheap labor led to chattel slavery within the Atlantic System. Students will Write to Learn as they gather information and evidence from credible sources, corroborate these sources and organize their thinking by creating a Mind Map. Students will use the information learned through the Writing to Learn used in this task to answer the supporting question, “What incentives caused individuals, organizations and governments to use slavery and other systems of forced labor for the purpose of production across the globe between 1300-1888?”

## Grade 2 Writing to Learn Sample for Social Studies

Social Studies Disciplinary Strand Standards Alignment	Inquiry Practices Alignment	Reading and Writing Standards Alignment	Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices Connections
<p><b>2.H.CH.1</b> Identify and compare the diverse North American cultural groups of the past and today.</p> <p><i>In this task, students are identifying cultural elements of the Maya, which will help them later to compare this group in Mexico from the past and today.</i></p>	<p><b>2.I.Q.2</b> Identify supporting questions that help answer compelling questions about communities found in North America.</p> <p><i>Students are working toward 2.I.Q.2 by gathering evidence from multiple sources that will help them answer the supporting question.</i></p>	<p><b>RI.2.1</b> Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how, and make and support logical inferences to construct meaning from the text.</p> <p><b>C.2.5</b> Conduct shared research and writing projects that build knowledge about a topic.</p>	<p><b>ILP 2:</b> Employ, develop and refine schema to understand and create text.</p> <p><b>ILP 3:</b> View literacy experiences as transactional, interdisciplinary and transformational.</p>

### Grade 2 Social Studies Task

In small groups, create a [graffiti board](#) representing Mayan culture using information you have gathered from the sources provided below:

- National Geographic. (2018). *Ancient Maya 101* [video]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6eBJJdca14>.
- NoticiasMVS. (n.d.). *Pueblos Indígenas en México* [infographic]. <http://noticiasmvsfotos.blob.core.windows.net/media/infografias/8a206f5d5c58f9e85b3774ff6fd05a2b.jpg>.
- Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. (2012). *The Maya People* [video]. <https://maya.nmai.si.edu/the-maya/maya-people>.

You may use a poster, chart paper or whiteboard and collectively write words, phrases and sentences and draw pictures that represent Mayan culture.

## Grade 2 Social Studies Teacher Notes

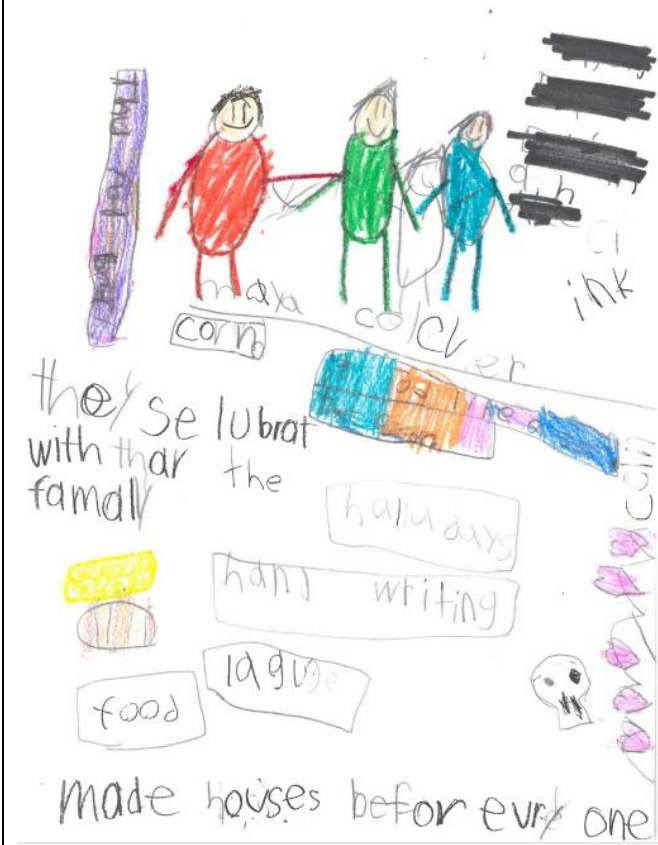
This Writing to Learn task is a part of the [Grade 2 Strongly Aligned Assignment with Teacher Notes](#) from the [Social Studies Student Assignment Library](#).

The graffiti board strategy allows students to organize the information they learn from the sources about the Mayan culture in text and images, allowing students to process their learning through both linguistic and non-linguistic means. Because Writing to Learn is informal writing, this strategy supports students in synthesizing information from the sources and expressing their thinking through text and images. Organizing elements of Mayan culture supports students' learning as they gather evidence to prepare for responding to the supporting question, "How did cultural groups connect and interact in the past and today to shape the culture of modern Mexico?"



Student Examples (continued on next page):

Grade 2 Social Studies Teacher Notes



## Grade 5 Writing to Learn Sample for Social Studies

Social Studies Disciplinary Strand Standards Alignment	Inquiry Practices Alignment	Reading and Writing Standards Alignment	Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices Connections
<p><b>5.H.CO.1</b> Analyze the role conflict and collaboration played in the founding of the United States.</p>	<p><b>5.I.U.E.2</b> Analyze primary and secondary sources on the same event or topic, noting key similarities and differences in the perspective they represent.</p>	<p><b>RI.5.6</b> Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the perspective they represent.</p> <p><b>RI.5.7</b> Analyze information from multiple print and non-print formats, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.</p> <p><b>RI.5.9</b> Integrate information from several texts on the same theme or topic.</p> <p><b>C.5.5</b> Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.</p> <p><b>C.5.6</b> Summarize relevant information from experiences, or gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase applicable information in notes and finished work and provide a list of sources.</p> <p>*See Teacher Notes for an explanation of the <i>KAS for Reading and Writing</i> reading strand and how these standards align to the task.</p>	<p><b>ILP 8:</b> Engage in specialized, discipline specific literacy practices.</p> <p><b>ILP 9:</b> Apply high level cognitive processes to think deeply and critically about text.</p>



## Grade 5 Social Studies Task

With a partner, you will examine the Stamp Act from both the British and Colonists' perspectives. The sources you will utilize are listed below:

- Colonial Williamsburg. (2020). *A Summary of the 1765 Stamp Act*. <https://www.history.org/history/teaching/tchrsta.cfm>.
- History.com Editors. (2019). *Stamp Act*. [history.com/topics/american-revolution/stamp-act](https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/stamp-act).
- Stamp Act History. (1999). *British View on the Stamp Act*. <http://www.stamp-act-history.com/stamp-act/british-view-on-the-stamp-act/>.

Read and analyze these sources with your partner. As you work, use the graphic organizer below to guide you as you compare the British and American Colonist perspective:

Stamp Act Summary <small>(include who created it, who it impacted, what it did, and what caused it)</small>	
British Perspective	Colonists' Perspective
Do the British have the right to tax the colonists? Cite evidence from the sources.	Do the British have the right to tax the colonists? Cite evidence from the sources.
Do the British believe the colonies have the obligation to help the British? Cite evidence from the sources	Do the colonists believe the British are entitled to the colonists' help? Cite evidence from the sources.
Summarize in detail the OVERALL feelings of the British on the Stamp Act.	Summarize in detail the OVERALL feelings of the colonists on the Stamp Act.
Compare the British and American Colonist perspective on the Stamp Act by analyzing the similarities and differences in their positions.	

## Grade 5 Social Studies Teacher Notes

This Writing to Learn task is a part of the [Grade 5 Strongly Aligned Assignment with Teacher Notes](#) from the [Social Studies Student Assignment Library](#).

A note about the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing*: Guiding Principles 1-6 give students an opportunity to practice skills in analyzing Key Ideas and Details and Craft and Structure. Guiding Principles 7-9 require readings of multiple texts and assume integrated engagement in Standards 1-6.

This graphic organizer offers multiple Writing to Learn opportunities. Each component requires students to focus on a different aspect of the content and would likely take place over multiple settings/days. For instance, students crafting a summary in the first box is Writing to Learn. Answering each set of perspective questions is also Writing to Learn. Students using what they learned about each group's perspective to analyze the similarities and differences is Writing to Learn as well. Each of these Writing to Learn tasks requires increasingly complex reading, writing and thinking skills and works together to comprise the full graphic organizer. Because this task carries a heavier cognitive load for students, teachers need a firm understanding of the reading strand within the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing*. This knowledge reduces over-identification and misalignment of standards. Seen in the Reading and Writing Standards Alignment box above, the standards in this task focus on integration of knowledge and ideas (Standards 7-9) even though students are responding to questions that require them to explain what the text says explicitly and from inferences (RI.5.1), citing evidence from texts that supports the central ideas (RI.5.2), and thinking about relationships or interactions between the British and Colonists (RI.5.3). These standards require students to analyze a single text at a time, which is happening in this sample Writing to Learn task; however, they are also required to go beyond single texts, aligning more closely to Guiding Principles 7-9. Standards 7-9 require readings of multiple texts, expecting the reader to apply Standards 1-6 as needed in each singular text to then integrate knowledge and ideas across multiple texts.

In short, this task requires both analysis (required by all reading standards) and synthesis (required by Standards 7-9, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas). When a task such as this one demonstrates this level of complexity, teachers should recognize the task as synthesis and align instruction to the appropriate Integration of Knowledge and Ideas standard.

## Grade 5 Social Studies Teacher Notes

### Student example:

<b>Stamp Act Summary</b> (include who created it, who it impacted, what it did, and what caused it)	
The stamp act was created in 1765 by British Parliament. It was a tax put upon the American Colonies. The tax was on legal paper goods like marriage licences, and other documents. This caused the colonies to be upset and started a boycott.	
British Perspective	Colonist Perspective
Do the British have the right to tax the colonists?  Yes because they are under the rule of the king. The king had the right to tax and make laws however he wanted to.	Do the British have the right to tax the colonists?  Yes, the British had a right to tax them, but the colonists wanted to be represented.
Do the British believe the colonies have the obligation to help the British?  Yes because they got the same rights as the British people under the rule of the king.	Do the colonists believe the British are entitled to the colonists' help?  Yes because they understand that they are under the rule of the king.
Summarize in detail the <b>overall</b> feelings of the British on the Stamp Act.  They feel like they had the right to tax them on whatever they wanted.	Summarize in detail the <b>overall</b> feelings of the colonists on the Stamp Act.  They said they would pay the tax but they needed representation.
Compare the British and colonists perspective on the Stamp Act by analyzing the similarities and differences in their positions.	
They both had a government that taxed them. The British had representation in Parliament, but the Colonies did not. They were both under the rule of the king.	

## Grade 8 Writing to Learn Sample for Social Studies

Social Studies Disciplinary Strand Standards Alignment	Inquiry Practices Alignment	Reading and Writing Standards Alignment	Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices Connections
<p><b>8.H.CO.2</b> Describe the conflicts and compromises that shaped the development of the U.S. government between 1783-1877.</p>	<p><b>8.I.U.E.3</b> Gather relevant information from multiple sources while using the origin, authority, structure, context and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection to answer compelling and supporting questions.</p> <p><i>Students are working toward 8.I.U.E.3 by examining a primary source related to the supporting question and determining its origin, authority, structure and context.</i></p>	<p><b>RI.8.1</b> Cite relevant textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p><b>C.8.5</b> Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating new avenues for inquiry.</p>	<p><b>ILP 8:</b> Engage in specialized, discipline specific literacy practices.</p> <p><b>ILP 9:</b> Apply high level cognitive processes to think deeply and critically about text.</p>

### Grade 8 Social Studies Task

Examine the [Missouri Compromise of 1820](#) using the [Analyze a Written Document](#) tool. You may work independently or in small groups to answer the questions provided on the tool.

### Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher Notes

This Writing to Learn task is a part of the [Grade 8 Strongly Aligned Assignment with Teacher Notes](#) from the [Social Studies Student Assignment Library](#).

## Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher Notes

In this task, students use Writing to Learn to gather information from a primary source document. Students are asked to observe the parts of the document, make sense of it and determine how to use it as historical evidence. Sourcing the Missouri Compromise and recording their analysis will support students in comprehending the document and understanding its purpose and significance. This knowledge will support students as they investigate the supporting question, “How did the Missouri Compromise temporarily save the Union?”

### Student example:

#### Analyze a Written Document

##### Meet the document.

Type (check all that apply):

- |  |                                    |  |   |  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chart                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement           | <input type="checkbox"/> Press Release                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Email     | <input type="checkbox"/> Identification document | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presidential document |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congressional document | <input type="checkbox"/> Other     |  |   |  |

Describe it as if you were explaining to someone who can't see it.

Think about: Is it handwritten or typed? Is it all by the same person? Are there stamps or other marks? What else do you see on it?

It is hand written and multiple people wrote it in Congress

##### Observe its parts.

Who wrote it? Sixteenth Congress

Who read/received it? People of the Missouri Territory

When is it from? March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1820

Where is it from? Columbus

##### Try to make sense of it.

What is it talking about? That Missouri would become a slave state and Maine become a free state and no slavery beyond a line.

Write one sentence summarizing this document. There would be boundaries on where slave territory can go and where free territory can go.

Why did the author write it? The author wrote it to inform the reader about the Missouri Compromise.

Quote evidence from the document that tells you this/parallel of thirty-six degrees of north latitude and parallel of latitude of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes.

What was happening at the time in history this document was created? There was a trial going on how a slave was in a free state for years then went back to a slave state but he wasn't free for some reason.

##### Use it as historical evidence.

What did you find out from this document that you might not learn anywhere else?

I learned more about what the Missouri Compromise was about.

What other documents or historical evidence are you going to use to help you understand this event or topic? I would use books because they will re-word it for me.

## High School Social Studies Writing to Learn Sample

Social Studies Disciplinary Strand Standards Alignment	Inquiry Practices Alignment	Reading and Writing Standards Alignment	Interdisciplinary Literacy Practices Connections
<p><b>HS.WH.CH.5</b> Analyze how continuities in the desire for cheap labor led to slavery and other systems of forced labor across the globe between 1300-1888.</p>	<p><b>HS.WH.I.UE.2</b> Gather information and evidence from credible sources representing a variety of perspectives relevant to compelling/supporting questions in world history.</p>	<p><b>RI.9-10.7</b> Analyze various accounts of a subject presented in different print and non-print formats, determining which details are emphasized in each account.</p> <p><b>C.9-10.6</b> Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.</p> <p>*See Teacher Notes for an explanation of the <i>KAS for Reading and Writing</i> reading strand and how these standards align to the task.</p>	<p><b>ILP 6:</b> Collaborate with others to make new meaning.</p> <p><b>ILP 7:</b> Utilize digital resources to share and learn with others.</p> <p><b>ILP 8:</b> Engage in specialized, discipline specific literacy practices.</p>

## High School Social Studies Task

To investigate how continuities in the desire for cheap labor led to chattel slavery within the Atlantic System, students will gather information and evidence from the following sources and create a [Mind Map](#):

- Chocolate Class. (2019) One Thousand Years of Sugar: The Transition from Medicine and Elite Consumption, to Everyday Life in Great Britain. *Chocolate Class*. <https://chocolateclass.wordpress.com/2019/03/15/one-thousand-years-of-sugar-the-transition-from-medicine-and-elite-consumption-to-everyday-life-in-great-britain/>.
- Earls, Averill. (2020, January 19). Bittersweet: Sugar, Slavery, Empire and Consumerism in the Atlantic World. [audio podcast]. *Dig: A History Podcast*. <https://digpodcast.org/2020/01/19/bittersweet-sugar-slavery-empire-and-consumerism-in-the-atlantic-world/>.
- Godoy, M. (2015). Tea Tuesdays How Tea + Sugar Reshaped the British Empire. *National Public Radio*. <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/04/07/396664685/tea-tuesdays-how-tea-sugar-reshaped-the-british-empire>.
- Rice, A. (n.d.). The Economic Basis of the Slave Trade. *Revealing Histories*. <http://revealinghistories.org.uk/africa-the-arrival-of-europeans-and-the-transatlantic-slave-trade/articles/the-economic-basis-of-the-slave-trade.html>.

## High School Social Studies Teacher Notes

As students engage with the sources, they should corroborate the sources. The Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) states that “Corroboration asks students to consider details across multiple sources to determine points of agreement and disagreement.” According to SHEG, a student who engages in corroboration asks the following questions of the sources:

- What do other documents say?
- Do the documents agree? If not, why?
- What are other possible documents?
- What documents are most reliable?

As students are corroborating these sources, have them create a Mind Map to visually organize their information. Mind mapping is a non-linear, graphic way of organizing information that allows students to focus on the relationships between ideas. For more information on Mind Mapping, watch this [Mind Mapping](#) video or visit the [Mind Mapping](#) website. For the purposes of this assignment, students would identify sugar as their main topic of study. Students would then complete the following:

- Have students identify sugar as the main topic of their map by placing it in the center and drawing a circle around it.
- Have students write down the main ideas that stem from sugar based on the information students read in the sources.
- Have students provide evidence for the main ideas that stem from sugar based on the information students read in the sources.
- Have students be creative and add visual interest by having students use both printed and sketched images to support their exploration of the main topic.

# High School Social Studies Teacher Notes

**Student example:**

