

All Nominations are due by October 31, 2009

(Over)

All Nominees

Please provide a brief response to the stated question. Your response will be used in a candidate information packet dispersed to all OCSS Members. Please limit response to 200 words.

What is the most significant issue currently confronting social studies education, and how would you confront this issue?

The biggest problem I see is student's real lack of understanding of the need to study to the social sciences. I hear day in day out "Mrs. Brown why do we have study history, government, economics, law, etc.?" My stock answer is "to show us what we are capable of doing to others and for ourselves." If we could impress upon students the impact they have on the history they are making today, we as a society would be far ahead of where we are right now. This takes time. Time in class and time with students. To explain the big questions of life to young minds, have them think about their understanding of those problems and formulate solutions to problems takes time. In our college programs we require time for reflection but if we do not give students in elementary and secondary schools this same time for reflection we rob them of the ability to see what we are trying to teach them. We need to teach students how to reflect on what they are learning and then give them the time to do just that, come back to the table of learning and discuss their conclusions with their "colleagues".