

Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

Teaching Science and Social Studies

November 2010

Discussion Questions:

1. Of all of the resources in the PD MAP on *Teaching Science and Social Studies*, what **one resource** was the most helpful or interesting to you?
2. What are the reasons for addressing science and social studies individually as content areas rather than incorporating them into reading skills instruction?
3. In the *Massachusetts Adult Basic Education Framework for History and Social Sciences*, it is recommended that instructors “illuminate the content of history and the social sciences [by encouraging] learners to recognize and examine their own experiences.” What is your experience with doing this?
4. The content areas of science and social studies hold so many possibilities for interesting discussions and projects. How do you incorporate discussion of these subjects with your adult learners? What have been the most successful science or social studies projects your learners have done?
5. Trainings, conference presentations and articles about teaching science and social studies to adult learners are limited. How has this paucity of professional development resources impacted you as a teacher of these subjects? Have you found resources or training that have been helpful?
6. How do your adult learners characterize their previous experiences learning science and social studies? What do you do to avoid repeating negative experiences and to replicate positive experiences?
7. Through engaging in social studies and science content, how do your adult learners feel more connected to their community and the world? What role has studying science and social studies played in helping your adult learners understand their place in society?
8. Identify any additional challenges related to teaching science and social studies. Describe strategies you have used to overcome the challenges.