

Disciplinary Literacy in Social Studies

Joshua Lawrence's Presentation Handout

When social scientists read, they

- Identify bias
- Untangle conflicting perspectives and claims
- Corroborate information and sources
- Contextualize sources
- Examine text structure
- Compare and contrast events, accounts, perspectives, documents, and visuals
- Infer what is not explicit
- Analyze and interpret
- Determine meaning of words, often within context
- Understand how to deconstruct maps, charts, infographics, and photographs

When social scientists write, they

- Create timelines with accompanying narratives
- Utilize information and/or evidence from multiple sources
- Organize conflicting ideas or perspectives into a whole
- Systemize large quantities of information
- Use the past as a mirror to the present
- Summarize social or political consequences of an event
- Rely on primary and secondary sources

When social scientists think, they

- Sift through fragments of information
- Consider big ideas across long periods of time
- Compare and contrast varying accounts, time periods, and events
- Connect causes with effects
- Synthesize events or ideas across long periods of time
- Recognize bias
- Think critically
- Synthesize information
- Consider belief systems of the time periods and cultures