Inquiry Project

You will research an important topic involving the integration of children's literature with significant content from the social studies curriculum. Topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

Teaching History in Primary Grades
Teaching Geography in Primary Grades
Teaching Economics in Primary Grades
Teaching Young Children About Maps and Globes
Teaching Citizenship in Primary Grades
Global Education for Young Children
Developing Young Children's Appreciation of Cultures
Promoting Moral Development Through Social Studies
Integrating the Arts in Social Studies
Environmental Education in Early Childhood Social Studies
Teaching about Social Issues and/or Current Events
Teaching Young Children about their Community
Using Artifacts to Teach History
Teaching Social Studies in the Preschool and Kindergarten
Teaching Social Studies Through Cooperative Learning

You may narrow these topics as needed or choose a topic not included in the list above, as long as it is a topic that is discussed in scholarly books and journals such as Social Studies and the Young Learner, Social Studies, Social Education.

Write a brief paper (4-7 pages, double-spaced, using size 12 font) explaining recommendations of educational experts in the selected content area.

➢ Use at least three (3) sources and provide a reference list in APA style.
➢ Although you may use on-line versions of scholarly journals, websites are not acceptable as sources for this paper.
➢ Some information from your textbook may be used, but most of your paper should be from three sources outside the textbook.

Your paper should include, but is not limited to, the following:
A. What are the most important concepts/generalizations (Big Ideas) that children should learn related to the topic you are discussing?
B. Why do children need to learn about the topic?
C. What do scholars and educators recommend for planning effective teaching strategies and interesting lessons on your topic?
D. Which ideas did you find to be the most promising or interesting?
E. How will what you have learned about this topic change the way you will teach social studies?

Your paper must reflect the high standards of literacy you will need to model as a teacher.
Criteria for Excellent Research Papers

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<tr>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
<th>Characteristics of an Excellent Paper</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Quality of the Paper</td>
<td>Topic/focus of paper is professionally significant and reaches beyond superficial questions of fact. Paper is at least 4 pages in length. Ideas are drawn from scholarly sources rather than from the writer's own opinions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference Sources</td>
<td>Paper draws on at least three sources besides the course text. Sources are professionally credible. Information from sources is used in substantial way. Sources are cited appropriately in the body of the paper and in the reference list, according to APA style.</td>
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<td>Relevance/Clarity of Information</td>
<td>Information in the paper provides useful information about teaching the topic which is the focus of the paper. Focus is maintained on information relevant to social studies education. Information is presented in clear, understandable manner. Information is relevant to the early childhood classroom.</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>There is a logical organization of ideas. Paragraph structure aids the reader. Question(s) are stated in the opening of the paper, and there is a concluding paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Expression</td>
<td>Spelling, grammar, and conventions of writing are appropriate for professional communication. Professional register is maintained; slang and colloquial expressions are avoided.</td>
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Scoring points:

- Class Sharing: 20 pts.
- Final Paper: 50 pts.
- Total: 70 pts.