2010 Social Studies Summer Review Institute

Teacher Perspective Textbook Critique

Local school boards may also want to consider other criteria to meet the needs of their student population.
All teachers that reviewed this material are highly qualified in their specific field in education.

Textbook Title: Contemporary Economics
Publisher: Cengage Learning
Grade Level: 9-12
ISBN No. Teacher Edition: 9780538444965
ISBN No. Student Edition: 9780538444958

TEXTBOOK ORGANIZATION

Thematic organization with multiple activities, workshops and supplemental resources, including Net workbooks, study tools online, graphing workshops and teacher resources. Text includes chapter and section objectives side by side with National content standards for both student and teacher editions.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT SUPPORT

Comprehensive online reinforcement and study skills opportunities are offered throughout the text for students and which parents can access as well. The book is written at a lower reading level, and while the content is non-threatening and user friendly, it is challenging and at times the high level vocabulary and graphics are daunting. Content assessment needs supplementing for deeper access to student knowledge, as there are not enough application and analysis style questions to consistently reinforce learning in the classroom without access to the internet. The text itself deals primarily with basic level assessment.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- The Teacher's Edition is a strong resource that would promote cooperative learning with all learners in a variety of teaching environments (i.e. a substitute could comfortably use this resource). Spanish resources are available, but access to learning for a diverse group of students may need modification and supplementation. This text was written more appropriately for an 11th or 12th grade level course. Be careful of over-teaching the material Exciting reinforcement opportunities online using interactive games
- Online access to current events and issues
- Available in Spanish
- Practical examples in the book, including project based and cross curricular activities
- Local/National and International topics are covered effectively and in a timely fashion
- Strong multicultural approach

ADDITIONAL TEACHER COMMENTS

- Valuable and appropriate graphics (though difficult at times)
- Non-threatening and fun in a variety of ways
- Applies current principles and activates prior knowledge

"You have to buy in to an Economics structure to use this book. I like this book for a higher level audience." SK 9-12

"As a bilingual teacher, I like the fact that this book is available in Spanish." AS 9-12