

# **The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal**

## **EDITOR**

Lynn E. Nielsen  
Malcolm Price Laboratory School  
University of Northern Iowa

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## FORWARD

The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal, a new publication for ICSS, will be issued each fall starting with the current year. It promises to be a vehicle by which Iowa social studies educators address today's social issues from a distinctly Iowa perspective.

The current Presidential election year, a most appropriate occasion to welcome a new "member" to the Iowa social studies family, provides the setting for teachers to involve students in developing citizenship competencies and democratic process skills from international, national, state and local perspectives.

While the articles in this first issue each relate in some manner to the current Presidential election, they were written with the diverse membership of ICSS in mind. They reflect the distinct needs of elementary and secondary educators throughout the schools of Iowa. Plans call for subsequent issues to continue recognizing these diverse needs while focusing on particular current social issues.

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that we present to the ICSS membership this first issue of The Iowa Council for the Social Studies Journal.

Lynn E. Nielsen, Editor

# THE IOWA COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES JOURNAL

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(Children Learning About Social Studies Firsthand)

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The authors describe how second- and third-grade students at Fox Valley Elementary School in Cantril, Iowa learn first-hand about local government and economics by creating the town Cantril D.C. where the bean replaces the dollar and elected officials and civil service employees need only a second- or third-grade education to qualify for office.

### TEACHING WITH POLITICAL CARTOONS IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

Mildred Bidlack ..... 5

The author suggests the integration of cartoons into the social studies curriculum to teach political awareness and critical thinking skills. Specifically, she identifies how the cartoonist's message and technique in caricaturing are keys to understanding the meaning of a given cartoon.

### "ELECTING" GLOBAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOMS

Tom Determan ..... 9

The author identifies several techniques which social studies educators should use to integrate a "global" perspective into the study of the Presidential election. "Basic" to effective citizenship, the numerous political activities associated with an election year become a backdrop for teaching a global perspective.

### ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR ELECTION 1988

Francis C. McMann, Carolyn Jepsen McMann ..... 12

The authors outline six secondary strategies for teaching economic thinking while investigating political issues and positions. They suggest these strategies epitomize the required critical thinking skills and inquiry processes which form the fundamental core of social studies education.