**What Are Best Practices?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Element of BP with Description** | **What the Teacher is Doing...** | **What the Students are Doing...** | **How I Decided on this BP, Which Readings, My Own Experiences** |
| * Active * Students learn by reaching their own conclusions and knowledge through hands-on AND minds-on lessons and activities. | * Facilitates student-led discussions * Models critical thinking strategies and other skills * Provides explanations when needed but allows students to ask questions, debate and discuss on their own whenever able * Create lessons and activities that are engaging and provide a variety of learning modes | * Work individually and in groups to reach their own conclusions * Ask questions, debate, and discuss topics that require critical thinking * Analyze a variety of sources before and during discussions | * I have a passion for Inquiry based learning and this BP goes hand-in-hand with this type of teaching * This BP popped out at me immediately when reading the NCSS article * My own experiences in social studies were not very active which is why learning how to create this type of environment in my own classroom is so important to me |
| * In Depth * Students learn by covering less topics in more depth, creating a passion to continue further exploration on their own | * Chooses inspiring and useful topics (setting, event, people, etc.) intentionally * Selects multiple sources with different perspectives and interpretations on specific topics * Creates an environment that encourages appreciation and life application for each topic | * Investigate topics in depth by analyzing many different sources * Gain the knowledge and skills to continue their own exploration and education on their own | * I chose this BP because it’s one that I think is difficult for social studies teachers since there are indeed so many different fields that need to be covered in 12 short years. * The SSBP article mentioned that it would be impossible for students to learn everything by the time they graduate but that covering less in more depth will hopefully help them to continue exploring on their own. * Again, in my own experiences, I felt as though this was not a BP I encountered enough. I think many of my teachers covered a great span of topics on the surface level and so I in turn did not gain memorable knowledge of the material. |