

# The Learning Continues: Elementary Social Studies in the Distance Learning Classroom

Rebecca Valbuena

CLIC Team, Los Angeles County Office of Education

TOSA/Academic Coach, Glendora USD





---

## Tip #1

Distance learning  
does not mean  
relational  
distance.

---

# Nurture Meaningful Connection

How can we feel together when apart?

- SEL at the Foundation
- Live class time on a regular schedule, even just once a week
- Allow for student collaboration
- Engagement includes relevance and rigor
- Instruction provides routine, but also novelty



---

## Tip #2

**Simplicity. Find routines that work for you.**

---



# Less Really Is More

What elements can be simplified?

- **Schedule and routine**
  - Students should be able to own their routines
- **New content and skills**
  - Dig deeper into familiar learning - extend.
- **Don't let tools become obstacles**
  - What works for you and your students?



---

## Tip #3

Prioritize open,  
creative assignments,  
and projects

---



# Lead with curiosity and engagement

How can you lean into inquiry?

- Embrace student experience and interest with open-ended challenges and explorations
- Use an inquiry structure to lessons and investigations
  - Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate
- Digital Citizenship Inclusion



# Lead with curiosity and engagement

## How can you support inquiry?

**Engage** - Tap & build prior knowledge . Get students ready to learn. Foster interest. Cultivate curiosity.

**Explore** - Learning experiences.

**Explain** - Synthesize new knowledge. Ask questions. Get clarification. Boost understanding.

**Elaborate** - Apply what has been learned. Develop deeper understanding. Create, conduct additional investigations aimed at reinforcing new skills. Cement the knowledge.

**Evaluate** - Observe, monitor and adjust.  
Demonstrate what has been learned.  
Assignment/project.







## Social Studies....because WE have questions!

Are you ready for this week's inquiry? We're hearing a lot about different types of heroes in our news these days. We will explore the compelling question: **WHAT MAKES A HERO A HERO?**

Brainstorm: What words describe a hero?

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

Go to [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) and type in the word "hero". Read the dictionary definitions. How close did your words from the question above fit within the definition?

1      2      3      4      5

I was not close.



I was very close.

## SAMPLE LESSON

# What makes a hero...a hero?

## *Summary*

Are you ready for this week's inquiry?

We're hearing a lot about different types of heroes in our news these days. We will explore the compelling question: **WHAT MAKES A HERO A HERO?**

---

# Thank you

For questions or information:  
[rvalbuena@glendora.k12.ca.us](mailto:rvalbuena@glendora.k12.ca.us)

