

Social Studies Whole-Class Instructional Strategy:

Causation

The Basics

What? A protocol to help students consider historical events and developments within their own context (the situation within which something exists or happens).

When? At the start of a new unit or topic, before doing any in-depth primary source analysis.

Why? To ensure students understand the context within which events unfolded, rather than viewing events in isolation, and can assess the significance of specific events and developments.

How to Implement

Select an event, process, person, or source that students have been learning about, or are preparing to learn about. Either as a class, in groups, or individually have students:

1. List possible causes.
2. Then, categorize the causes as either short-term, intermediate-term, or long-term and place them in the appropriate sections on the [graphic organizer](#).
3. After that, use the graphic organizer key to help you label the causes: role, significance, and type.
4. In the role section
 - a. Students will identify the triggering event (for example the straw that broke the camel's back)
 - b. Next, they will identify the contributing causes
 - c. Finally, students will identify the underlying causes
5. Students will identify the cause:
 - a. Economic
 - b. Cultural
 - c. Political
 - d. Technological
 - e. Environmental
 - f. Ideas/Beliefs
6. (optional) The teacher can ask students to create a causal map and use their answers here to help construct that causal representation.

Resources and Additional Information

- [Graphic Organizer](#)
- [Research](#) supporting Causation

- [Video Model](#) of this strategy
- Example activities: [Introduction to Causation, Grades 9-12](#), [Grade 9-12 Article](#)
- Example topics in [Bayou Bridges: A Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) in which the Causation strategy would be helpful:
 - **Grades 6-8:** World War I (BB G8 U3, LSSSS 8.11, 8.11.a), The Great Depression (BB G8 U4, LSSSS 8.13, 8.13.a, 8.13.b), Domestic Issues of the Modern Era (BB G8 U7, LSSSS (8.17.c)