



*From the desk of:*

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Social Science Department

December 7, 2014

Mr. Rich Nichols  
Principal  
Mira Loma High School  
4000 Edison Avenue  
Citrus Heights, CA 95765

Re: **Instructional Grant Software Budget – World History**

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Attached you will find the above-referenced Instructional Grant Software Budget for World History that I am submitting for your review and approval.

The following table outlines the software I chose for my budget and provides you with an explanation of my choices and how they enhance and support learning.

SOFTWARE EXPLANATION		
Software	Explanation of Choice	Learning Enhancement and Support
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE</b>		
<a href="http://Quizlet.com">Quizlet.com</a>	Quizlet is a leading online study/vocabulary building tools that motivates and engages students through creation, interaction, and gaming. These leading online program is used from grade school to grad school with proven results. It is one of the best drill-and-practice programs I have evaluated and used to date. I chose this particular software because of its ease of use, ability to reach all types of learners, is accessible from many different devices and locations which supports learning in and outside of the classroom, its engaging and motivating design, and its proven success rate.	This amazing drill-and-practice tool will used in the classroom to support learners of all levels in understanding complex history terms, concepts, people, and events. Students can create their own terms, add photos, graphics and audio and quiz themselves and/or each other through flashcards and a variety of other games to support their learning. In addition, the software helps ESL learners because the program offers audio conversion in many different languages. Students with special needs will be supported by the ability to add visuals and audio. It will enhance many skills including creation, writing, reading, auditory, visual, and team skills. I can be used individually and in small group collaborative work as well.

<p><a href="http://Education-Portal.com">Education-Portal.com</a></p>	<p>Education-Portal.com offers an extensive library of high quality video lessons in most high school and college subjects to help students improve their grades and enhance their learning experience through technology. I chose this tool to enhance learning history in a fun, engaging format that will help support all learning levels. It is a tool that has been created by teachers for teachers and is highly rated. This program is also in alignment with the Common Core and recommended by the ISTE and NCSS.</p>	<p>This tool is amazing for history and many other subjects. Its video-based animated format is engaging and fun to watch. Each short video is followed by a quiz. The videos can be watched over at any time, from any device, anywhere to support learning. A comprehensive test can be designed by teachers. It also is in alignment with the Common Core and recommended by the ISTE and NCSS (National Council of Social Sciences).</p>
<p><a href="http://Historysimulation.com">Historysimulation.com</a></p>	<p>History Simulation is a great program that uses simulations to engage and motivate students. It is also created by a High School History teacher for teachers. It offers eight simulations on various wars in history including WWI, WWII and the Cold War. It also offers various support materials and lesson plans. These simulations are well planned and high quality and will greatly enhance learning these events. Simulations are also used by many universities and business schools such as Yale and Harvard. They are an excellent 21st century learning tool. They are also in alignment with the Common Core and recommended by the ISTE and NCSS.</p>	<p>Simulations work for history because they bring otherwise potentially boring subject matter to life. They engage students, promote strategic skills, improve problem solving skills, stimulate the imagination and creativity, encourage exploration, teach consequences, they learn political and physical geography, they learn history's impact on the present, they learn about the impact of technology and resources, and they learn how to engage in real world diplomacy.</p>
<p><a href="http://Brain-Pop/GameUp.com">Brain-Pop/GameUp.com</a></p>	<p>BrainPop is a popular online resource that has been around for a while now and is a proven tool to engage and motivate students through its fun animated and game-based platforms. It has lessons, quizzes, game play, interactive activities and much more for virtually every subject. For Social Science it includes many topics such as economics, geography, world history, U.S. Government and law, U.S. History and historical world figures and includes social science movies too. It is a tool that aligns with the Common Core, ISTE and NCSS standards too.</p>	<p>This is an excellent tool to enhance and excite learning, promote thinking, and encourage exploration. BrainPop supports individual and team learning. This tool supports learning and the "flipped" classroom methodology. They also offer many supports for teachers including many resources, lesson plans and professional development opportunities. I like to use BrainPop to enhance my history lessons and make them come alive. It also supports ESL and students with special needs because of its audio and visual components.</p>
<p>Apps</p>	<p>My budget contains a sum for apps that includes the contingency remainder. So many apps are available now to support 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. In addition, it helps to support learning outside of the classroom because students can access them anytime, from many devices, anywhere which promotes life-long learning. Because of the rapid expansion of this tool I wanted to ensure enough money in the budget to support many different apps.</p>	<p>I have used many apps to support learning that range from quizzes, games, history facts, and more. I always build a few apps to support the subject as well as to engage and motivate student learning of the subject. You can check out how I used apps successfully when teaching students about the Cuban Missile Crisis at <a href="http://13daysinOctober.blogspot.com/p/games.html">http://13daysinOctober.blogspot.com/p/games.html</a></p>

<b>BASIC SOFTWARE</b>		
Microsoft Office 365	MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint are the leading programs for word processing, spreadsheet creation and presentation creation. Currently, they are the most widely recognized and utilized programs in business, college and personal use. Since the school currently does not have an open license program with Microsoft, the budget is based on purchasing the initial product and licenses for 40 students/1 teacher. Using this mainstream program strongly supports 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning and ISTE standards for teachers and students.	Students must know how to effectively use these tools to write reports, create presentations and create basic spreadsheets to analyze data so that will be prepared for college and vocations beyond high school. These tools are mandatory for 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning. They will also be used in conjunction with free online tools including <i>GoogleDocs</i> , <i>GooglePresenter</i> , and <i>GoogleSpreadsheets</i> to enhance individual and collaborative projects.
<b>BEYOND THE BASICS</b>		
<a href="http://PollEverywhere.com">PollEverywhere.com</a>	PollEverywhere.com is an amazing 21 <sup>st</sup> century that allows you to poll, even quiz your students from any device, from everywhere in real time via SMS or text messaging too! It includes analytics, word clouds, check-in on learning goals, take attendance, and collect anonymous feedback. I chose it because it is an engaging tool, support all learners and learning anytime, anywhere from any device which promotes life-long learning. It is also tremendously more cost effective than buying a set of clickers and associated software.	This is a fun and engaging tool to use to check for understanding and to assess for prior learning especially since history lessons can be complex and fast paced. Students love it because they can use their SmartPhones, Tablets or PC's to respond. It uses technology they use every day to support learning in real time. In addition, the fear of answering a questions wrong is gone because it gives you the ability to take the responses anonymously. I have even had students design their own polls based on wacky history facts! They also love the messaging component of this great tech tool.
<a href="http://Glogster.com">Glogster.com</a>	Glogster.com is an easy way to have students safely create multi-media presentations, conduct research online, learn about open resources and sharing information, learn about opinion formation and digital citizenship. I selected this software because it is unique and engaging and teaches so many necessary 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills.	<a href="#">Check out this sample Glog!</a> To get an idea about what a Glog is! Is like a multimedia presentation online poster that includes photos, illustrations, anything relevant to the topic including their opinions – like a blog! It's great because students can collaborate, present online to the class, and post on their websites or they can publish and share their work with other students all over the world! It really support learning because they have access to Glogs about virtually every subject.
<a href="http://Thinglink.com">Thinglink.com</a>	Thinglink is another great open resources that allows students to create interactive videos and multimedia presentations. I selected this so they can learn more about digital citizenship, OER's and information sharing while be engaged and motivated to learn.	The best way to describe Thinglink is – think of a picture, like a book shelf, then pick one component of the picture, like a book and animate that book, include content, etc. It's really amazing. Click on this link to see 5 ways its used in learning. <a href="http://gettingsmart.com/2012/08/5-ways-use-thinglink-teaching-learning/">http://gettingsmart.com/2012/08/5-ways-use-thinglink-teaching-learning/</a>

<p><a href="http://GoAnimate.com">GoAnimate.com</a></p>	<p>GoAnimate for Schools is an awesome resources that allows students to show their content knowledge through creation of their own animated features. I chose this tool to promote creativity, critical thinking and analysis within my history content and to engage and motivate students. This tool is supported by the ISTE.</p>	<p>I have used GoAnimate for students to re-create historic events from their point of view. Through the power of creation, they get into the subject matter and have come up with some really creative, funny historic representations that they present to the class. The work is typically accomplished in small groups, but can be done individually. It also teaches them critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including analysis, reflection, writing, design, communication, teamwork, and more. Their ability to retain the material is exceptionally strong too. It also promotes tech skills which can serve as a catalyst to possible future careers.</p>
<p><a href="http://Storyboardthat.com">Storyboardthat.com</a></p>	<p>Similar to GoAnimate, I chose this inexpensive software to give students a creative outlet for learning history and to engage and motivate learning while learning design through a technological tool. This tool is supported by the ISTE.</p>	<p>Storyboardthat.com also supports and enhances learning through creation and design and utilization of technology to put historic events into perspective. The French Revolution is always a popular comic strip for students to create. By seeing how students design and depicts events I can check for understanding of those events more fully. It is also a great tool for promoting collaboration. It is a great tool for promoting reading and writing too.</p>

<p><a href="http://Screencast-o-matic.com">Screencast-o-matic.com</a> Upgrade</p>	<p>This tool is a simple to use screen-capture tool where students can learn to demonstrate what they know and share with other students. It's a fun, easy tool to use. The free version is limited. Upgrading allows for more features such as those you would have on a Smart Board and allows for more recording time.</p>	<p>This tool is not only utilized by me as the teacher to record lessons, lectures, and demonstrations that students can play back to support and enhance learning a their own pace – but I also have them utilize this tool for the same purpose. It really serves to engage, motivate and support learning as well as teaching them 21<sup>st</sup> Century presentation skills.</p>
<p><a href="http://Dipity.com">Dipity.com</a></p>	<p>Dipity is an amazing timeline creator that is easy to use, engaging, motivating and really puts history and current events into perspective through the use of creation and multi-media including audio and video files, pictures and documents. I chose this software to enhance the often daunting task of having students put historical events into perspective time wise. There is great learning power through creation. Dipity is supported by the NCSS too.</p>	<p>I used this amazing 21<sup>st</sup> Century tool to support learning through creation, research, writing, and the use of multi-media to support my history content. Students put together their own timelines or work in small groups of 4-5 to build timelines and put events into a perspective that they can understand. They can also access their creations anytime, anywhere from any device which really supports learning. They like to upload their creations to their websites which serves as a great study tool. The visual and audio components which are available in many different languages really support ESL learners and learners with special needs.</p>

<a href="#">Weebly.com</a> Upgrade	Weebly.com is a website creator. Weebly for schools allows students to design and create their own website safely online. I chose this because I want my students to be understand digital citizenship including their digital footprints, and learn to be able to promote themselves online safely.	I use Weebly for Schools to have my students create their own blogs and websites to promote and track their work, blog about historic events, and to create content on the website related to history and digital citizenship. It teaches them 21 <sup>st</sup> Century skills such as effective online communication, creation, critical thinking and analysis, promotion and marketing, how to create and integrate multi-media and more! These serve as their e-portfolios that their parents can access anytime to see their work! They can showcase their favorite historic subjects, upload historic pictures, poems, music and so much more! It really serves to engage and motivate students!
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In addition to the choices and explanations for my software budget, ALL software has been evaluated by, tested or used by me and the software has been highly rated or recommended by [Edudemic](#), [Edutopia](#), [eSchoolNews](#), the [NCSS](#) or the [ISTE](#). It is in alignment with the State of CA and Common Core Standards as well as the [ISTE-T](#) (Standards for Teachers) and [ISTE-S](#) (Standards for Students), formerly NETS-T and NETS-S. The Following charts represent how the software I am requesting meets the ISTE Standards.

ISTE-S (Standards for Students)						
Software	1	2	3	4	5	6
Quizlet.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education-Portal.com			✓	✓		✓
History-Simulation.com			✓	✓		✓
Brain-Pop/GameUp.com		✓	✓	✓		✓
Apps	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Microsoft Office 365	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
PollEverywhere.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glogster.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thinglink.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GoAnimate.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Storyboardthat.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dipity Timeline Creator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weebly.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Screencast-o-matic.com	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>ISTE-S: 1. Creativity and Innovation, 2. Communication and Elaboration, 3. Research and Information Fluency, 4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making, 5. Digital Citizenship, 6. Technology, Operations and</b>						

Concepts.

ISTE-T (Standards for Teachers)					
Software	1	2	3	4	5
Quizlet.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Education-Portal.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
History-Simulation.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brain-Pop/GameUp.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Microsoft Office 365	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PollEverywhere.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Glogster.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Thinglink.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
GoAnimate.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Storyboardthat.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dipity Timeline Creator	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Weebly.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Screencast-o-matic.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>ISTE-S: 1. Facilitate and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity, 2. Design and Develop Digital Age Learning Experiences and Assessments, 3. Model Digital Age Work and Learning, 4. Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility, 5. Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership..</b>					

The approval of this budget will improve instruction greatly in my World History classroom and bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It will also enable me to provide my students with the latest technological tools to enhance their learning experience. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this budget.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Peacock*

Andrea Peacock, M.S., Ed., Ed Tech Specialist  
 Social Science Department