


**ALABAMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
applications for  
**Grades 6-8 Social Studies**

**Part 1** Smart Sheets for Social Studies Content  
**Part 2** Vocabulary Smart Sheets  
**Part 3** Project-based Learning




**Edwin Ellis, Ph.D.**  
University of Alabama

**ALABAMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (2005) 394-5512

The are quite a few great resources in the **Makes Sense Strategies** Tool-kit for addressing project-based learning

**Researching**  
**Presenting**



**ALABAMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (2005) 394-5512

**Organizer SMARTsheets**

- Hierarchical**: Main Idea 2 Main Ideas 3 Main Ideas 4 Main Ideas 6 Main Ideas 8 Main Ideas
- Compare / Contrast**: Venn Matrix complex Matrix & conclusions Matrix & double conclusions
- Cause / Effect**: CE frames CE webs
- Sequence**: Single Cycles Sequence of Events

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets**

- Literature**: Story Grammar & Sequence Character Analysis Literary Analysis Story Problem Questions Inferences Predictions Text/Pencil
- Writing**: Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Resources Supplemental: Narrative Descriptive Expository Persuasive
- Vocabulary**: Word Cards Semantic Tables Word Comparisons Word Connections Features Analysis LINC3 mnemonics Scavenger Hunts Multiple Meanings
- History & Science**: Generative Ideas Person Group Place Event Process Theory Ideology Debate Issue Policy Conflict Problem Invention Object
- Math**: Mathematical Concepts Computational Processes Rules/Theorems
- Social / Motivation**: Behavior Literacy Character Building Perspective Taking Self-control Goal Setting & Self-advocacy Behavior Analysis
- Project-based Learning**: Planning Investigations Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Project Processes & Outcomes
- SMARTplanners for Teachers**
- Instructional Design**: Content-area Units & Lessons Library/Strategy Units & Lessons Anticipation Guides Scaffolding Tactics Reflective Reviews
- SMARTplanners for Leaders**
- MSS Implementation Resources**: School-wide Implementation Strategies Articles [www.MakesSenseStrategies.com](http://www.MakesSenseStrategies.com) Acknowledgments

©2009 Makes Sense Strategies, LLC. All Rights Reserved 16652 Ogden Rd., Northport, AL 36473 phone/fax (205) 330-8813

**ALABAMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (2005) 394-5512

**Organizer SMARTsheets**

- Hierarchical**: Main Idea 2 Main Ideas 3 Main Ideas 4 Main Ideas 6 Main Ideas 8 Main Ideas
- Compare / Contrast**: Venn Matrix complex Matrix & conclusions Matrix & double conclusions
- Cause / Effect**: CE frames CE webs
- Sequence**: Single Cycles Sequence of Events

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets**

- Literature**: Story Grammar & Sequence Character Analysis Literary Analysis Story Problem Questions Inferences Predictions Text/Pencil
- Writing**: Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Resources Supplemental: Narrative Descriptive Expository Persuasive
- Vocabulary**: Word Cards Semantic Tables Word Comparisons Word Connections Features Analysis LINC3 mnemonics Scavenger Hunts Multiple Meanings
- History & Science**: Generative Ideas Person Group Place Event Process Theory Ideology Debate Issue Policy Conflict Problem Invention Object
- Math**: Mathematical Concepts Computational Processes Rules/Theorems
- Social / Motivation**: Behavior Literacy Character Building Perspective Taking Self-control Goal Setting & Self-advocacy Behavior Analysis
- Project-based Learning**: Planning Investigations Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Project Processes & Outcomes
- SMARTplanners for Teachers**
- Instructional Design**: Content-area Units & Lessons Library/Strategy Units & Lessons Anticipation Guides Scaffolding Tactics Reflective Reviews
- SMARTplanners for Leaders**
- MSS Implementation Resources**: School-wide Implementation Strategies Articles [www.MakesSenseStrategies.com](http://www.MakesSenseStrategies.com) Acknowledgments

©2009 Makes Sense Strategies, LLC. All Rights Reserved 16652 Ogden Rd., Northport, AL 36473 phone/fax (205) 330-8813

**ALABAMA**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (2005) 394-5512

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects**

HOME

**Planning Projects** Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

Topic Analysis Matrix DRAFT Plans Goals & Commitments

COLOR Black-line COLOR GUIDE Black-line COLOR Black-line

**PATHS**  
project planning strategy

**DRAFT**  
planning strategy

| Determine tasks | Reveal resources | Assign duties          | Forecast barriers              | Target solutions           |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                 |                  | WHO does WHAT by WHEN? | If we run into this problem... | THEN we'll solve it by ... |
|                 |                  | WHO does WHAT by WHEN? | If we run into this problem... | THEN we'll solve it by ... |
|                 |                  | WHO does WHAT by WHEN? | If we run into this problem... | THEN we'll solve it by ... |
|                 |                  | WHO does WHAT by WHEN? | If we run into this problem... | THEN we'll solve it by ... |

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects**

HOME

Planning Projects Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

Topic Analysis Matrix DRAFT Plans Goals & Commitments

COLOR Black-line COLOR Black-line COLOR Black-line

PATHS project planning strategy  
DRAFT planning strategy

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Goals for working together effectively**  
Check 3 that will be primary goals

Listening without interrupting  Respecting different opinions, skills & abilities  Giving "I" messages  
 Turn taking & involving everyone  Encouraging & complimenting others  Consensus building  
 Offering assistance  Recognizing and celebrating others' successes  Giving negative feedback  
 Communicating about difficulties  Recognizing unique talents of others  Peacefully resolving conflicts

**Goals for using effective work techniques**  
Check 3 that will be primary goals

Using & keeping timelines  Being open minded  Organizing ideas & being clear  
 Resisting impulsiveness  Being creative  Being accurate  
 Engaging in challenging tasks  Viewing an idea in unusual ways  Noticing how you & others think  
 Persisting during tough times  Presenting an idea in usual ways  Using information resources  
 Organizing & prioritizing tasks  Inventing & testing strategies to solve problems  Checking for quality

**Commitments to quality of project and presentation**

By signing my name below, I am making a commitment to:

1. Developing a high quality product that I will be proud of.
2. Creating a product that will make sense, be interesting and informative to my audience.
3. Being neat and careful.
4. Doing my share on time.
5. Doing my best.

Signatures

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Organizer SMARTsheets**

Hierarchical: Main Idea 2 Main Ideas 3 Main Ideas 4 Main Ideas 6 Main Ideas 8 Main Ideas

Compare / Contrast: Venns, Matrix (compare) Matrix & conclusions Matrix & double conclusions

Cause / Effect: CE frames CE webs

Sequence: Steps Cycles Sequence of Events

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets**

Literature: Story Grammar & Sequence Character Analysis Library Analysis Story Problem Questions Inferences Predictions Text/Pencil

Writing: Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Resources Supplemental: Narrative Descriptive Expository Persuasive

Vocabulary: Word Cards Semantic Tables Word Comparisons Word Connections Features Analysis LINC's mnemonics Scavenger Hunts Multiple Meanings

History & Science: Generative Ideas Person Group Plans Event Process Theory Ideology Debate Issue Policy Conflict Problem Invention Object

Math: Mathematical Concepts Computational Processes Rules / Theorems

Social / Motivation: Behavior Library Character Building Perspective Taking Self-control Goal Setting & Self-advocacy Behavior Analysis

Project-based Learning: Planning Investigations Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Project Processes & Outcomes

**SMARTplanners for Teachers**

Instructional Design: Content-area Units & Lessons Library/Strategy Units & Lessons Anticipation Guides Scaffolding Tactics Reflective Reviews

**SMARTplanners for Leaders**

MSS Implementation Resources: School-wide implementation Strategies Articles www.MakesSenseStrategies.com Acknowledgments

© 2009 Makes Sense Strategies, LLC. All Rights Reserved 16652 Opium Rd., Northport, AL 36475 phone/fax (205) 394-5512

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects**

HOME

Planning Projects Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

Information Sources TEST Plans Hypothesis Testing

COLOR Black-line COLOR Black-line COLOR Black-line

FIND research strategy  
INVENT problem-solving strategy  
TEST research strategy

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Information Sources**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Print resources</b><br>Electronic:<br>• Internet<br>• CD Rom Encyclopedias<br>• Library computerized search programs<br>Paper:<br>• News (that relate to topic)<br>• Specialty magazines (i.e., Skateboarder magazine)<br>• News magazines (i.e., Time magazine)<br>• Reference books (library)<br>• Newspapers (introduce to public library)<br>• Specialty books (i.e., Dummetts Guide to Sailing)<br>• Textbook<br>• Reference abstracts (library) | Research topics/questions & location of resources |
| <b>Human resources</b><br>Interview experts on topic<br>• Persons with unique experiences related to topic<br>• Someone who could identify additional information resources<br>Have someone demonstrate new ways of using technology<br>• Presentation programs like Power Point<br>• Library search engines   |   |
| <b>Media resources</b><br>• Movies (videos) related to topic<br>• Infomercials related to topic (public library)<br>• Television shows related to topic<br>• CD/R tapes to listen to (check out books on tape)<br>• Pictures/maps  |   |
| <b>Experiences</b><br>Places to visit:<br>• Library<br>• Factory<br>• Business<br>• Service organization (i.e., Red Cross office)<br>Things to do:<br>• Try something out<br>• Observe, 3  |   |

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

**Organizer SMARTsheets**

Hierarchical: Main Idea 2 Main Ideas 3 Main Ideas 4 Main Ideas 6 Main Ideas 8 Main Ideas

Compare / Contrast: Venns, Matrix (compare) Matrix & conclusions Matrix & double conclusions

Cause / Effect: CE frames CE webs

Sequence: Steps Cycles Sequence of Events

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets**

Literature: Story Grammar & Sequence Character Analysis Library Analysis Story Problem Questions Inferences Predictions Text/Pencil

Writing: Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Resources Supplemental: Narrative Descriptive Expository Persuasive

Vocabulary: Word Cards Semantic Tables Word Comparisons Word Connections Features Analysis LINC's mnemonics Scavenger Hunts Multiple Meanings

History & Science: Generative Ideas Person Group Plans Event Process Theory Ideology Debate Issue Policy Conflict Problem Invention Object

Math: Mathematical Concepts Computational Processes Rules / Theorems

Social / Motivation: Behavior Library Character Building Perspective Taking Self-control Goal Setting & Self-advocacy Behavior Analysis

Project-based Learning: Planning Investigations Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Project Processes & Outcomes

**SMARTplanners for Teachers**

Instructional Design: Content-area Units & Lessons Library/Strategy Units & Lessons Anticipation Guides Scaffolding Tactics Reflective Reviews

**SMARTplanners for Leaders**

MSS Implementation Resources: School-wide implementation Strategies Articles www.MakesSenseStrategies.com Acknowledgments

© 2009 Makes Sense Strategies, LLC. All Rights Reserved 16652 Opium Rd., Northport, AL 36475 phone/fax (205) 394-5512

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects  
HOME

Planning Projects Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

**Presentation Goals** **Presentation Options** **Presentation Plans**

CLEAR communication strategy

| KEY IDEA TO BE COMMUNICATED |                             |                             | NOTES ABOUT IDEAS |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2-D VISUAL DEVICES          | 3-D VISUAL DEVICES          | PERFORMANCES                |                   |
| Web or frame                | Create a model              | Oral report                 |                   |
| Compare/contrast            | Collection of samples       | Dramatization of event      |                   |
| Sequence                    | Artifacts                   | Dramatization of commercial |                   |
| Cycle                       | Key-ideas & details mobile  | Role play                   |                   |
| Mind Map                    | Interest center             | Debate                      |                   |
| Chart/Table/Graph           |                             | Explanation/demonstration   |                   |
| Makes Sense Think-sheet     | WRITTEN DOCUMENTS           | Video of real interview     |                   |
| Other graphic organizer     | Histo-fiction Story         | Interview simulation        |                   |
| Surface map                 | Business or personal letter | Create audience experience  |                   |
| Photographs                 | Grant proposal              | Simulation activity         |                   |
| Poster                      | Script play or commercial   | Movement (dance /charade)   |                   |
| Draw/paint pictures         | Newspaper article           | Newspaper article           |                   |
| Collage                     | Cartoons/Comic book         | Comic book                  |                   |
| Interactive Bulletin Board  | Information pamphlet        | Information pamphlet        |                   |
| ABC pop-up book             | Scroll                      | Scroll                      |                   |
| Slide show                  | Tour Guide                  | Tour Guide                  |                   |
| Power Point presentation    | Written Report              | Music                       |                   |

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects  
HOME

Planning Projects Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

**Presentation Goals** **Presentation Options** **Presentation Plans**

CLEAR communication strategy

**PATH Presentation Plans**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ Names of presenters: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION**

To inform or explain something  To increase awareness of an issue or problem  To change an attitude or belief  To show a solution to a problem  To change a behavior or way of doing things  To entertain

**AUDIENCE**

The audience will mostly be:

**ADULTS** Teachers  Parents &/or relatives  **STUDENTS / FRIENDS** Younger students  Same age students  Older students

Best guess about the audience's knowledge of this topic:

Don't know much about this topic at all. It will probably be new information for most of them. Therefore, we'll need to ...

Will have some background knowledge about the topic, but probably won't know specifics; may have some misunderstandings about it. Therefore, we'll need to ...

Will already know a lot about the topic; some may even be experts. Therefore, we'll need to ...

Focus on the describing the big picture & basics; avoid technical language. Provide overview of the big picture, identify common misunderstandings or myths, be sure to define technical terms. Acknowledge expertise, overview big picture, focus on specifics. OK to use technical terms.

**TOPICS**

What is the most important idea you hope the audience will understand as a result of the presentation?

Main Idea #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Main Idea #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Main Idea #3: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOOK**

What would be a good way to begin the presentation that will make the audience curious about the topic?

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

Organizer SMARTsheets

- Hierarchic: 1 Main Idea, 2 Main Ideas, 3 Main Ideas, 4 Main Ideas, 5 Main Ideas, 6 Main Ideas, 8 Main Ideas
- Compare / Contrast: Lines, Matrix (linear), Matrix & conclusions, Matrix & double conclusions
- Cause / Effect: 25 Topics, 22 webs
- Sequence: Steps, Cycle, Sequence of Events

**Essential Understandings SMARTsheets**

- Literature: Story Sequence & Sequence, Character Analysis, Literary Analysis, Story Problem, Questions Inferences, Predictions, Text/Persuad
- Writing: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, Resources, Supplemental, Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Persuasive
- Vocabulary: Word Cards, Semantic Tables, Word Comparisons, Word Connections, Features Analysis, LINC5 mnemonics, Scavenger Hunts, Multiple Meanings
- History & Science: Generative Ideas, Person Group Place Event, Process, Theory, Ideology, Debate Issue Policy, Conflict Problem, Invention, Output
- Math: Mathematical Concepts, Computational Processes, Rules / Theorems
- Social / Motivation: Behavior Literacy, Character Building, Perspective Taking, Self-control, Goal Setting & Self-advocacy, Behavior Analysis
- Project-based Learning: Planning Investigations, Conducting Investigations, Making Presentations, Evaluating Project Processes & Outcomes

**SMARTplanners for Teachers**

- Instructional Design: Content Area Units & Lessons, Literacy/Strategy Units & Lessons, Anticipation Guides, Scaffolding Tactics, Reflective Reviews

**SMARTplanners for Leaders**

- MSS Implementation Resources: School-wide Implementation Strategies, Articles, www.MakesSenseStrategies.com, Acknowledgements

© 2009 Makes Sense Strategies, LLC. All Rights Reserved. 16652 Ogden Rd., Northport, AL 36475, phone/fax (205) 330-6813

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** **Makes Sense Strategies Toolkit**  
© Edwin Ellis, PhD (205) 394-5512

Essential Understandings SMARTsheets Projects  
HOME

Planning Projects Conducting Investigations Making Presentations Evaluating Projects

**Essential skills & behaviors**

Collaboration Evaluation, Work Habits Evaluation, Evidence of Commitment to Quality

**Project outcomes**

Previewing Task Evaluation, Presentation Evaluation, End of Project Evaluation

