

Subject Area: Social Studies

Grade Levels: 6 – 12 (ages 11-18)

Time: At least two 45-minute class periods; time outside of class as necessary.

Lesson Objective:

Students will research and diagram a government policy or event to help them better organize and retain the information.

Common Core State Standards¹:

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading:

Standard 7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

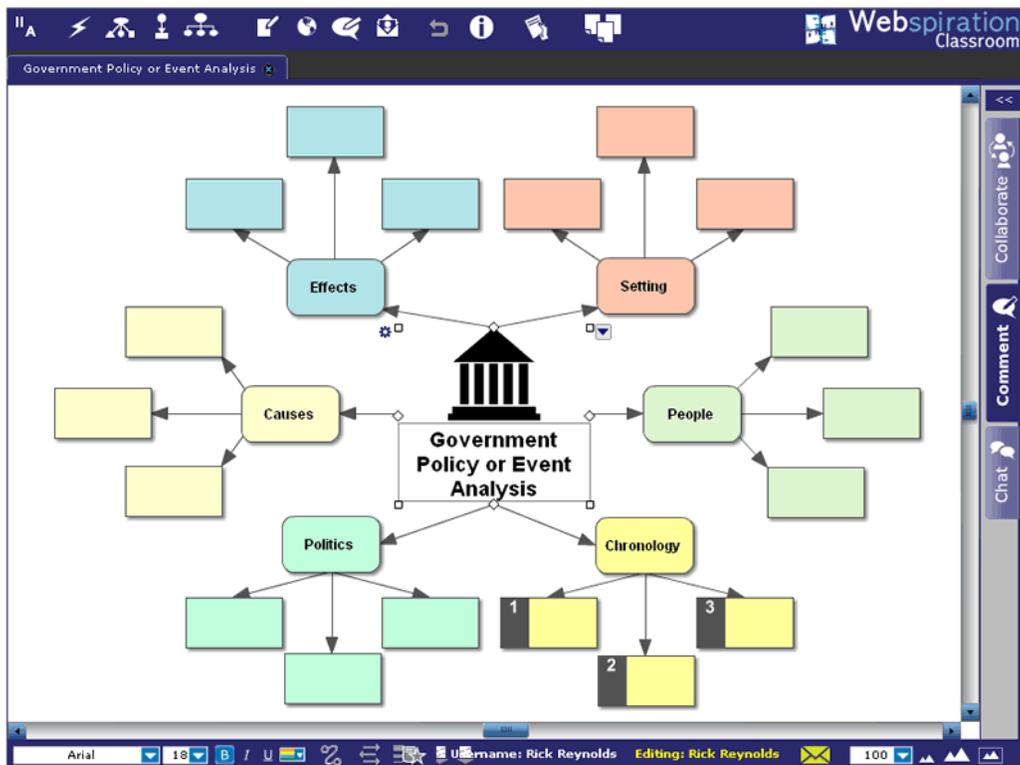
College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing:

Standard 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:

Many factors influence the development and outcomes of government policies and other events. The process of understanding the significance of these events is much easier with the integration of a visual diagram such as the *Government Policy or Event Analysis* template (**Webspiration Classroom™ Starter>Starter Docs>Social Studies>Government Policy or Event Analysis**). Completed diagrams can then be used as visual aids in class presentations.

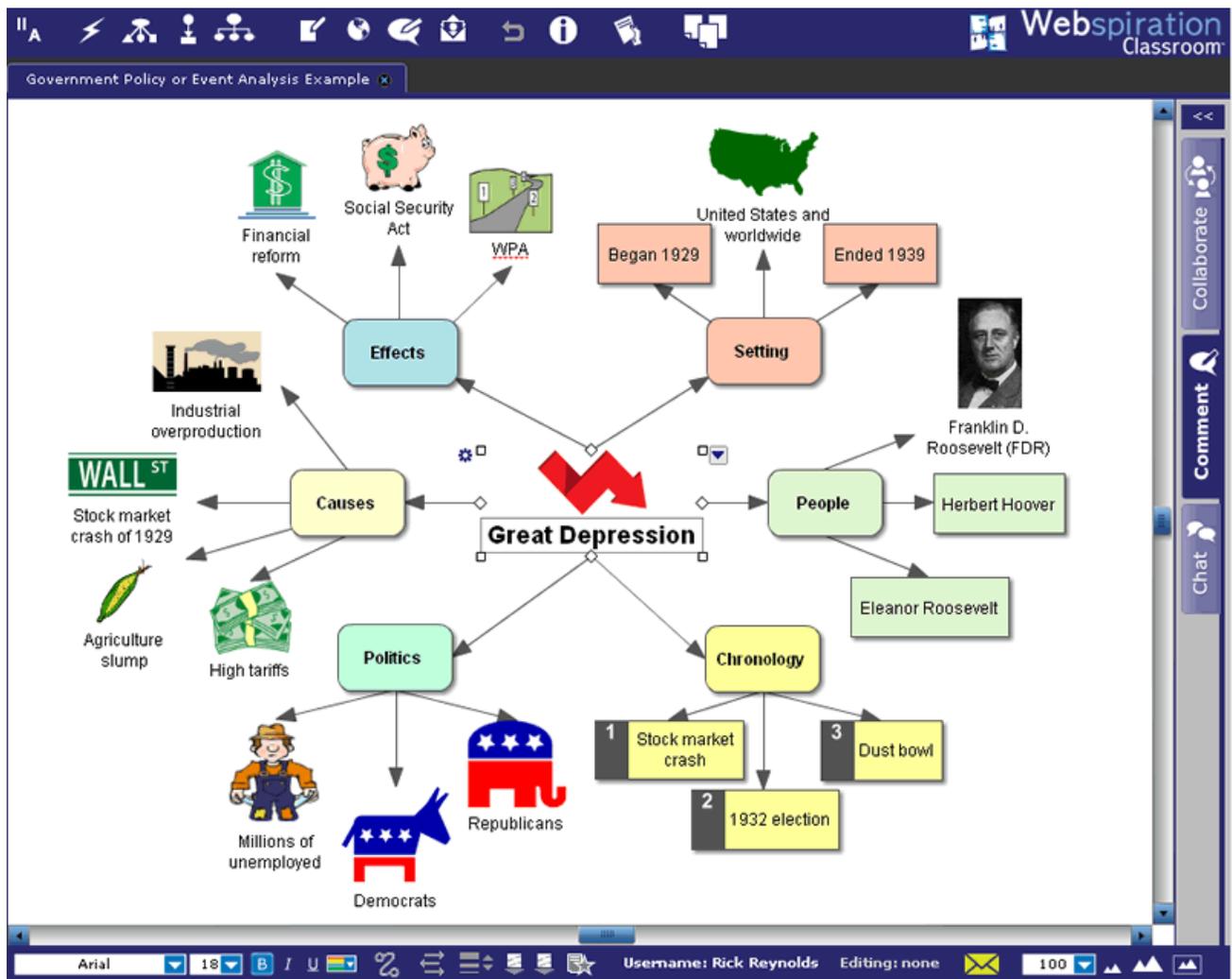


Preparation:

- This lesson requires Internet access and the Webspiration Classroom software application published by Inspiration® Software, Inc. It can be accessed by visiting <http://www.webspirationclassroom.com>.
- Access to library resources would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:

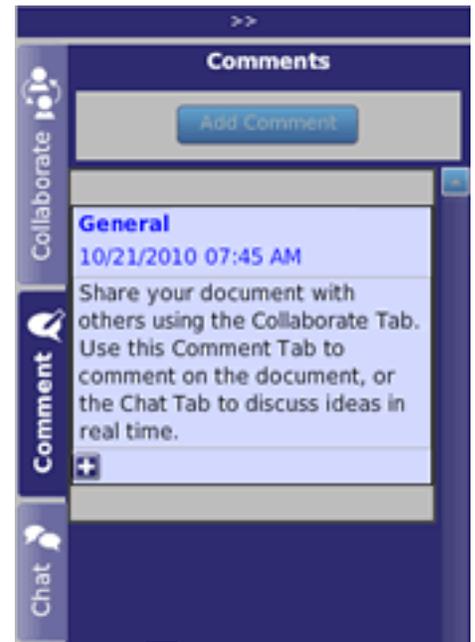
1. Tell students that they will research a government policy or event and use Webspiration Classroom to help organize their notes and thinking. Open the *Government Policy or Event Analysis* template and talk students through it so they understand the assignment; using the template will help students organize and better understand what they learn.
2. Open the example file (**Webspiration Classroom Starter>Examples>Social Studies>Government Policy or Event Analysis Example**) and talk the students through it so they know what is expected.



3. Explain that students will be adding visual symbols, as well as text, to their diagrams. Adding symbols will help them and their readers better understand and remember the content. Optional: Additional graphics can be inserted into diagrams via the **Edit** menu.
4. Be sure to point out how additional information was added in **Notes**. This information can be most quickly shown in **Outline View**.



5. Students should be organized into groups of 2-3 to complete the project. Groups will then choose a government policy or event to research. You may want to provide a list of acceptable topics, or you may have groups choose a policy or event and then submit their proposals for review.
6. Student groups can collaborate on their diagram and obtain feedback from the teacher using the collaboration tools. Documents can be shared with others using the **Collaborate** tab. The **Comment** tab can be used to comment on the document, or the **Chat** tab can be used, if it is turned on at your school, to discuss ideas in real time.
7. Encourage students to add **Hyperlinks** to their sources of information, including any multimedia files available on the Internet.
8. Inform students they can use **Notes** to add additional information as they complete the project. They can go to **Outline View** to finish organizing their information.
9. Have students “publish” their work by making presentations to the class using a data projector or interactive whiteboard, if one is available, to display their diagrams as a visual aid during the presentation.
 - **Notes** can be turned on and off by clicking the **Note Quick Controls**  in the upper-right corner of the icon with the note.
 - Subtopics can be hidden or viewed using the **Subtopic Quick Controls**  to allow focused attention on the topics being discussed.



Adaptations / Extensions:

- Students can download their project to Inspiration® or a word processor, or transfer it to a Google Doc, to complete a written report about their government policy or event.
- Modify the assignment by changing the topics to be researched on the template. The template can also be simplified by removing some of the areas or adding more areas to be researched. Modified templates can be shared with some or all members of the class using the collaboration tools.
- Webspiration Classroom may be used to create more detailed chronologies of important developments. The *Chronology* template is useful for this extension: **Webspiration Classroom Starter>Starter Docs>Social Studies>Chronology**.

¹ © Copyright 2010. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers. All rights reserved. Learn more online at <<http://www.corestandards.org>>.