

Fulton County Schools' 2021 Social Studies Virtual Fair

Message from Humanities: We look forward to another exciting Social Studies Fair in Fulton County Schools! If you have questions about the fair, please contact the Social Studies Department at fcssocialstudies@fultonschools.org.

ALERT: There is an optional district fair for 2021 but **NO** regional and state fairs.

- Regional and State Social Studies Fairs have been postponed for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The fairs are funded by the in-person GCSS conference, which will not take place this school year.
- GCSS encourages teachers to have students maximize the extra time by stretching out each step of the process in anticipation of entering thorough, well-developed projects in regional and state fairs next year. The [GCSS website](#) will provide suggestions on how students can extend their work.

Information at a Glance

Format: Virtual

Deadline to submit entries to district: January 19

Who can participate: Students in grades 5-12

Components:

- 1) Research paper
- 2) PowerPoint presentation
- 3) Oral introduction and brief overview

Quick Links

The following links provide guidance documents for schools and families as they prepare for the district fair.

- [SS Fair Judges Sign-up Form](#)
- [FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair Entry Form](#)
- [Sample Letter to Parents for District Fair](#)
- [FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair Score Sheet](#)
- [Recommended Timeline and Research Plan](#)

For Students and Parents:

Q1: Is there guidance on selecting Social Studies Fair project titles?

Students should select a topic they find interesting and has available resources for research. There are six [Social Studies Project Disciplines](#), and students should select a discipline that inspires inquiry for them. Students can find [sample project ideas](#) within their textbooks, on the internet, and through class discussion.

Q2: Where can I find additional information on the Social Studies Fair?

The Georgia Council for the Social Studies (GCSS) coordinates the annual Social Studies Fair. Although there is no state fair this year, www.gcss.net, provides multiple resources that offer guidance for students.

Q3: What are the different components of the FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair project?

All projects should have the following components:

1. Research paper that includes the research question/problem, methodology, research findings, and conclusions
2. PowerPoint presentation that should not exceed 15 slides
3. Oral introduction

Q4: How will the Social Studies project be judged?

Judges use the FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair Score Sheet (located in Quick Links section). This sheet has been modified for use in the FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair to score student(s) projects on: research paper, PowerPoint presentation, and oral introduction. Each component of the project impacts the overall score of the project. The highest score is 100.

Q5: When are the Regional and State Social Studies Fairs?

The regional and state fairs have been cancelled for the 2020-2021 school year.

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For Teachers:

Q1: Should teachers volunteer to serve as judges at the fair?

The Social Studies Department asks that each school that submits a project(s) to the fair also designate a teacher to serve as a judge. Each teacher who will serve as a judge should complete the [SS Fair Judges Sign-up Form](#).

Q2: What are the expectations for District Social Studies Fair judges?

The Social Studies Department will follow the guidelines followed by the State Social Studies Fair in spring 2020 which provided multiple days to review and score projects.

- (1) Judging will take place during the last week in January over several days.
- (2) Score sheets and an email with project information will be sent to judges by Friday, January 22.
- (3) Completed score sheets should be returned to fcsocialstudies@fultonschools.org by Sunday, January 31.

Q3: Will teachers be paid to judge projects?

Yes, teachers will be paid \$28/hour. Teachers will be asked to judge 8 projects (four hours) or 16 projects (eight hours) for their time during the time between January 22 and January 31.

Q4: Can teachers volunteer as judges if there are no students from their school in the competition?

Yes, the Social Studies Department encourages interested teachers to serve as judges for the fair. Each teacher who volunteers to serve as a judge should complete the [SS Fair Judges Sign-up Form](#). The Social Studies Department pays for the additional time used by teachers.

Q5: How are students entered into the 2021 District Social Studies Fair?

To participate in the district fair, schools must host a local school fair (either virtual or face-to-face) before Friday, January 15. The designated person from each school can enter ten winning projects into the FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair by submitting a FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair Entry Form and accompanying documents for each person associated with the project to the Social Studies Department at fcsocialstudies@fultonschools.org by **Tuesday, January 19**.

Q6: Will students compete with other students in their grade level or all students who participate in the fair?

Projects are judged by class and discipline. Grades 5-6 are Class I. Grades 7-8 are Class II, Grades 9-10 are Class III, and Grades 11-12 are Class IV. Each project addresses a topic in one of the following disciplines: Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology/ Psychology. Students within a class compete against one another according to their selected discipline.

Q7: How many students can work on a project?

Projects may be completed by individual students or in groups up to three students from grades 5-12. The names of all students must be on the FCS Social Studies Virtual Fair Entry Form. Group projects will be judged in the class corresponding to the highest grade level represented by members of the group.

Q8: After the district fair, are there other Social Studies Fairs available for students to enter their project?

No, district winners will NOT advance to the regional fair nor state fair. Students are encouraged to extend their research submitted in the district fair and submit a project in 2022.