

# Arizona Council for the Social Studies



## NOMINATION FORM

### *GREAT MOMENTS IN SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHIING*

In order to recognize teachers who design and implement exemplary classroom experiences, the Arizona Council for the Social Studies has established *Great Moments in Social Studies Teaching*, presented annually at the ACSS Fall Conference. Award recipients will receive certificates citing and describing their outstanding examples of social studies teaching and a \$100.00 cash award. "Great Moments" can take many forms and use various teaching methods (e.g., simulation, lecture, and role-play). To be recognized as a "Great Moment in Social Studies Teaching," an exemplary classroom experience must:

1. *Be at least an extended lesson or mini-unit (i.e. a series of activities lasting several days).*
2. *Be significant for its creativity, meaningful content, and potential for promoting learning.*
3. *Incorporate teaching methods likely to engage and motivate students.*
4. *Convey knowledge, skills, and values essential for democratic citizenship.*

Awards will be given in three (3) categories: elementary (K-5), middle grades (6-8), and high school (9-12). A maximum of five (5) recipients will be selected in each category.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Classroom teachers from any district in Arizona who have written a Social Studies lesson can receive this award. Candidates need not be ACSS members, but must be practicing Arizona teachers. A "Great Moment" can be nominated by the person who taught it or by a supervisor, administrator, teacher, parent, or student who has observed it.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** To be selected by the ACSS Awards Committee as a "Great Moment in Social Studies Teaching," a nominated teaching experience must:

1. *Follow the ACSS format guidelines for this award.*
2. *Demonstrate creativity, meaningful content, and potential for promoting student learning.*
3. *Incorporate teaching methods likely to engage and motivate students.*
4. *Submitted lessons should demonstrate originality. Though inspired by the work or template of another author, they must contain substantial innovation and sound pedagogical design. The Awards Committee for the nominating year will determine the definition of what is substantial.*

**NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be judged by the ACSS Awards Committee, all nominations must meet the following requirements:

1. *Nominations must be typed and include this form as a cover sheet.*
2. *All nominations must include these supporting materials.*
  - *A description of the nominated teaching experience, including its title, intended audience (for example: "This lesson was taught to a heterogeneous group of 27 fifth grade students in a culturally diverse setting"), content, goals/objectives, required materials, and the procedures or sequence of activities. The description should be clear, concise, and sufficiently detailed that someone unfamiliar with the nominated teaching experience can understand it.*
  - *Brief letters from at least one observer (e.g., a supervisor, colleague, or student) who can verify that the nominated teaching experience was taught and comment on its qualification as a 'Great Moment.'*
3. *When nominations have been received, nominees will be asked to provide indicators that the teaching experience had an impact on student learning (e.g., a sample of student work, a summary of classroom observations, a statement from a student, photographs).*



# Arizona Council for the Social Studies

**Complete the following information and return this form with supporting materials:**

NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION/SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Arizona

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip  
( ) ( )

School/Office Home

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATED BY \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION/SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Arizona

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip  
( ) ( )

School/Office Home

NOMINATION SUPPORTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Arizona

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip  
( ) ( )

School/Office Home

Please check one of the following:

I am the author of this lesson.

Or

I adapted this lesson from another author: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's name and affiliation

Please describe briefly what substantial changes you made to the original lesson:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and all supporting materials to:

**ACSS Awards Chair  
P.O. Box 24839  
Tempe, AZ 85285**