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SS In My Life

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All my life I have had this extreme phobia like feeling toward history, social studies, or anything dealing with it. When it comes to anything dealing with history, culture, government, etc I like to think of myself as a fact learner. By this I mean I learn about these topics by picking up facts here and there because that is how I keep myself interested instead of trying to shove a bunch of facts and what not into my brain. However when I was in elementary/middle I did have my moments of enlightenment in social studies (very few). I usually took a liking to social studies when it involved projects because I was able to be hands on. Surprisingly my most memorable positive experience with social studies happened in high school but there was one experience in middle school where the teacher divided the class into the three branches of government and we spent a whole week role playing with these positions. I learned a lot about the roles of the judicial, executive, legislative branches of government and checks and balances systems. The not so good experiences usually involved me having to cram loads of information, facts, and definitions into my head only to have to regurgitate the information on a multiple choice test. In the event that I teach social studies I want to allow students to take a more hands on approach to learning social studies, specifically role playing and small and big projects such as posters. I would also like to be sure to teach my students that it is not about how much you remember necessarily, but how you apply the information. For example, I would rather they

in specific offices and use the information to their advantage to give thoughtful opinions on decisions and maybe even potentially use the information to help them when they are old enough to vote than focus on memorization. I honestly feel anytime you can make learning fun, hands on, and adventurous you can promote a healthy learning environment and great social relationships among students. I think social studies can also be used as a way to get students up and moving and to practice good effective decision making. For example, an activity about traveling the world using the playground, get kids up and playing. And an activity using the different political offices could promote healthy debate and decision making by students. Overall I hope that by taking this course I can learn some methods and incorporate methods into my own classroom that can promote these ideas I have and I hope these ideas can make social studies fun yet informational and beneficial for both the students and me. I want my classroom to be so enlightening that students cannot wait to run and tell their friends and family and pass on the activities and lessons that were done. I want a class where when I ask my students a question all hands go up in excitement and every student is eager to answer a question whether wrong or right.