

## **Theory of Action**

## Studies Weekly Theory of Action concerning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Studies Weekly is committed to promoting equity and access for all students. Diversity is an asset to communities and should be celebrated and nurtured. All students should have representation and a culturally authentic mirror of themselves in the classroom, especially those who are under-served and under-represented. Additionally, all students benefit when they are given access to windows into other cultures and value systems.

In California, Studies Weekly continually works with school administrators, teachers, and parents to review, re-examine, and update the materials we provide for instruction and professional development. In 2021, we not only collected feedback to make updates to the adopted curriculum, but we also have committed to creating a new version of the content that is even more aligned with the California Social Studies Standards and Framework and the FAIR Education Act. To this end, we have interviewed teachers, parents, and administrators to learn how to provide the most relevant curricula for California students. We have engaged with experts in the state to consult on our guiding documents to unpack the standards and interpret the framework in a culturally responsive fashion.

Additionally, we are consulting with cultural studies experts, subject matter experts, and diverse contributors to support us as we provide culturally responsive and culturally authentic materials. We seek to widen the context of each narrative and contextualize individual stories that give an understanding of cultural identity without incurring stereotypes or conglomerate representations, all with an eye to removing barriers to access and equity for all students.



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Our vision and awareness of students who need to see themselves in our curricula grows all the time. At the present, we are improving our representation of and culturally responsive approach toward:

- American Indian tribes: We are carefully researching how the indiginous peoples of California represent themselves through multiple reviews, publications, and collections of materials.
- **African Americans:** Guided by a panel of African American studies professors, we are increasing the context around our African American studies and adding African history to our corpus.
- Hispanic/Latinos: Influenced by native Spanish speakers from multiple heritages, we are carefully
  infusing the content with the perspectives of Californians with heritage from Mexico and other
  Spanish-speaking countries.
- Asian Heritage: We provide an individually-centered approach to representing the contributions
  and influence of Californians of Asian heritage. Instead of defaulting to a conglomerate identity,
  we believe that each individual has their own culture and story to tell.
- **LGBTQIA+:** At Studies Weekly, we welcome contributors who have lenses from a variety of genders and orientations. We support perspectives of wellness and inclusion.
- **Many Abilities:** Through representation and celebration, we highlight students who have diverse physical and neurological abilities.
- **Economic Representation:** Students of all income levels and living contexts need to see themselves entering learning with an assets base and a path to success.

Studies Weekly strives for continual improvement and innovation through ongoing, consistent professional learning. As a team, we seek to understand culturally relevant teaching strategies, learn about diverse cultures, and understand the importance of working with a wide variety of contributions to our content. Whether learning about cultural inventories, historical reinterpretation, personal bias navigation, or celebrations of diverse historical figures, our teams are dedicated to the journey toward equity.

Dr. Noelle Carter Chief Curriculum Architect



**Questions?**