

TEACHING HISTORY

Journals

As you may know, *Canadian Social Studies (The History and Social Science Teacher)* is the only Canadian magazine which focuses exclusively on the teaching of social studies from elementary through university levels. Our readers include elementary and secondary school and university teachers of social studies, history and geography and the social sciences including politics, economics, and sociology. *Canadian Social Studies* can be found in most school and university libraries across Canada and in 15 other countries, as well as in the resource centres of many school districts and departments of education. The magazine has existed for more than 30 years and has built an envious reputation both in Canada as well as abroad.

Canadian Social Studies not only provides comment and criticism on social education, it also acts as the only voice for social studies educators in Canada. It also serves as the one place where elementary, secondary, and university teachers from across Canada can exchange ideas, report on research findings, and share innovations in curriculum and pedagogy in the social sciences.

Over the last few years CSS has fallen on rough times and is in need of rejuvenation. Because of cutbacks in educational spending in all of our provinces and territories, our subscription base has been seriously eroded.

In response, we have developed a robust marketing plan to reach out to teachers of social studies at all levels to support CSS.

To introduce your prospective social studies/history/geography and social science teachers to our magazine we have developed a special reduced student membership which represents a reduction of our regular rates. Normally, a one-year subscription to CSS would cost individuals \$24.00 plus GST. Student memberships were previously priced at \$15.00 plus GST. We are prepared to offer students registered in your course a one-year subscription at the special rate of \$15.00 (GST inclusive). If we can bulk mail the student subscriptions to your attention we will offer you a one-year subscription at the special student rate of \$15.00 provided that a minimum of 10 orders is received from your students. For more information, contact: Gene Burdenuk, Managing Editor, Althouse Press, (519) 661-3182.

Research Essay

How often have we gathered around the departmental coffee-maker to commiserate about our students and their inability to write a research essay? Too often, it seems. While it is much easier to blame the high schools for doing an adequate job of preparing students for university, it nevertheless leaves the problem unresolved.

As history teachers we have a responsibility to teach not only history but the writing of research papers. Students may or may not need to know the details of the seigneurial system after graduation, but they will always need the basic skills of researching, organizing and making sense of large amounts of information.

There are many books on the market designed to help undergraduate students with research and writing. However, one in particular stands out: *The Research Essay: A Guide to Essays and Papers* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1995). Written by Hugh Robertson, a former history teacher at Ashbury College in Ottawa, *The Research Essay* is now in its third edition.

Robertson does not treat the research essay as a final product; rather, he treats it as a process. As a result, he breaks the research (selecting the topic, searching for sources, defining the purpose and taking notes) and the essay (the outline, the rough draft, revisions and the final copy) into their component parts. In the end, he offers a clear, concise and easy-to-follow guide for undergraduate history students. Also included is useful information on documentation (footnotes and bibliography) and presentation (title page and layout).

As professors we too often forget that the skills of research and writing are learned, not inherited. Because of his emphasis on process and skill development, Robertson also presents a convenient and effective teaching strategy.

In effect, *The Research Essay* is both a student guide and a teacher's manual.

