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## Promoting professionalism in master's level teachers through research based writing

Jesus Garcia

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, [jesus.garcia@unlv.edu](mailto:jesus.garcia@unlv.edu)*


P. S. McMillen

*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, [psmcmillen.phd@gmail.com](mailto:psmcmillen.phd@gmail.com)*

David A. Bolin

*Western High School, Las Vegas*

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# Promoting Professionalism in Master's Level Teachers through Research Based Writing

International Society for the Social Studies: Orlando, FL 2011

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Jesus Garcia, Paula S. McMillen, and David A. Bolin

# Starting Points

- Social Studies Professor
- Librarian
- Public School Teacher

# Course Description

- 2 research-based papers suitable for publication
  - Step by step process
  - Writing “buddy”
  - Frequent instructor feedback
- Guest speakers (educator writers)

# Rationale for the Convergence

- Re-emphasize the inquiry process in social studies pedagogy
- Build research skills & knowledge (tools and strategies)
- Counteract the effects of teacher socialization

# Evolution of students

- “Re-understanding” the writing process (intrinsic value of the process- vs. product-based approach)
- Sense of self-efficacy as researchers
- Connecting practices and policies in education to research
- Self-evaluation of teaching practices
- Complexity of issues
- Increased professionalism

# An Individual's Story

- Going through the motions, why more?
  - Professionalism
  - Gain credibility with
  - Respectful treatment
  - Challenge administrative policies with research evidence

# Areas for Improvement

- Capitalize on peer-to-peer coaching
- Increase utilization of library faculty
  - more integration in class
  - establish connections with school librarians
- Greater connection of writing projects to real-world issues
  - Target specific writing audiences
- Sustaining student momentum after completion of course/program
  - Create support or advisory groups



# Implications for Teacher Education Programs

- Increase writing requirements at earlier stages of Master's programs
- Increase connections between research and practice
  - Why am I doing what I'm doing in my classroom?
  - Build in robust discussion opportunities throughout Master's program

# Questions?

- To read the full article, utilize the doi resolver:  
<http://dx.doi.org/> and enter:  
doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2010.06.007
- McMillen, P. S., Garcia, J., & Bolin, D. A. (2010). Promoting professionalism in master's level teachers through research based writing. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 36(5), 427-439.