

JFKS Social Studies Department Meeting, 17 January 2024

**Bilingual glossaries:**

Building on work done at the fall workshop day, the teachers discussed different ways to approach a “bilingual glossary” project. They agreed to have students in grades 7-10 develop a bilingual glossary of key terms. (The goal is ten terms per subject per year.) The students will add definitions and examples of how the terms are used. Ideally this will be a document that students will keep and build on from year to year. The project will start second semester and teachers will assess in early fall how it is going and whether it can be improved. Some teachers worried that the project could consume already scarce instruction time in the social studies subjects.

Teachers still need to discuss and decide which terms will go in the glossary.

**Artificial Intelligence tools:**

Teachers discussed what artificial intelligence tools mean for social studies instruction.

The English department has already had sobering experiences with students using ChatGPT or other AI tools to write essays. At the same time, teachers noted that ChatGPT and other AI applications are powerful tools that the students will need to learn how to use effectively.

Teachers noted that students are already starting to use ChatGPT as a verb. Instead of “google it” they will say “ChatGPT it.”

Teachers discussed some ways to detect AI-generated essays and suggested having students write assignments by hand.

Teachers emphasized that they themselves need to become more familiar with and proficient with the technologies so that they can help students learn to use it effectively. A key skill is to learn how to recognize when an AI tool produces an “illusion of knowledge” instead of actual knowledge.

--notes by Gretchen Vogel, JFKS Parent Council Representative