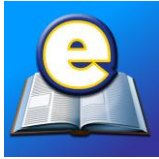# 21st Century Classrooms – *Consume, Create, and Communicate*

A. Consumers of Information

The following apps highlight a very small glimpse into the apps available on the iPad for Social Studies. Of course, with an open wireless network teachers and students have the ability to tap into an outrageous amount of information at a simple click and search. The first app is your Pearson e-text app for Counterpoints. Students will login and access their eBook. The following two apps provide great information and detail for World War 1. Although the content is limited, in terms of Canadian involvement, it does make for a great resource. The next app is specific to World War 2 and again provides great information for students in the way of text, audio and video. Safari is the main Internet browser for the iPad. The remaining two apps are CBC News and Flipboard, which provide two different methods of reporting news, current events, and current trends.

All these apps are geared towards students consuming information. The e-text is a great tool where students can interact with their content by highlighting main ideas, inserting shared and personal notes, taking screen shots to cut and paste images and notes, and to view video links on various topics. The use of the e-text, and other apps, on the iPad allows the content to really "come to life" where students can personalize their learning.

B. Creation

The real power of the iPad comes with the numerous apps for student creation. The iPad is an amazing tool with the capability to create movies, eBooks, and amazing presentations. I have included four apps to give you a start. I'm sure as you continue working with your iPad you, and your students, will find other great tools to help showcase student work. The app, Explain Everything, is a great app that allows students to import pictures and then create narrated movies. Another app, iMovie, is a great app for video creation. It provides students' the option of either using a trailer template to create a video or the full movie template to create a video. Students have

usually used this app in elementary school or middle school so they have some background knowledge of the apps capabilities.   The next app, Book Creator, is a cornerstone of my planning for this year. This app allows the user to create an eBook with audio, video and text. Students can add their personal touches to the eBook and then it can be emailed or printed as a PDF if needed. The next, Comic Life, is a playful yet useful app where students can create comic strips of a topic they are working on. Students can import images from their photo roll and include them in the comic strips. The final app Worldpress, is a blogging app where students create a personal connection to their curriculum by finding a common thread with their content and then writing about their thoughts and ideas. Blogging is a very powerful aspect of learning and provides a great venue for self-reflection and student engagement.

C. Communication

The final part of the workflow is the communication piece. Edmodo is a wonderful web-based tool allowing teachers to create a safe environment for students to submit their work electronically. Teachers can post their assignments to Edmodo and students can upload their creations directly from the iPad to Edmodo using the photo roll feature. As a colleague once stated, "this is very sleek!" Teachers then have the ability to provide feedback directly on the assignment to a student's Edmodo account. The next app is called Socrative. Socrative is a very easy to use polling app where teachers can create surveys, quizzes or questionnaires and use the iPads as devices to respond in real time in class. A very cool feature is the ability to email a report with all data directly to your email inbox. The final app is Twitter. Twitter gives students the opportunity to create and share their ideas, resources, and links with their peers and teachers using social networking most are used to and confortable with.