

**Social Studies Reflection**

Growing up, social studies topics were not discussed in my household, and as a consequence I've felt as though I've been playing catch up since I started college. My parents really shy away from topics in which they must form strong opinions and make judgments. I used to think that was the ideal: to never complicate things with political discussion. However, my education at UC Berkeley and beyond taught me the value of civic engagement. Now I am strongly involved in civic discussion, both in my personal and professional lives.

My parents have always been fiscally conservative—they both come from families that have had serious problems with money, and they are anxious about ending up like my grandparents: destitute.

I couldn't be more different. I believe in social justice, and I think money could be spread around more evenly. My education led me to understand the place of the federal government and economic regulations.

My relationship with geography and history as a young person was also severely limited. My parents never talked about history or geography, so for a long time I had very little knowledge of where things were taking place. However, when I met my partner, a historian, all of that changed. Now I tend to think knowledge of history is more important than my main studies of math and science.