

Dean Robertson
Steinbrenner High School, Hillsborough County
2022 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

Dean teaches U.S. history and economics at Steinbrenner High School in Hillsborough County.

Dean was chosen as a 2022 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up for his use of the newspaper as a catalyst for important conversations about history, current events and critical thinking.

Dean has been using the newspaper as an educational resource in his classroom since 1996.

Dean writes, “As a U.S. History teacher, I have found the paper to be a vital part of my instruction. Ensuring students can make connections between past events and the present is vital to their understanding of our history. Whether delving through articles regarding Tampa’s connection to the Spanish-American War, learning about the evolution of political parties throughout time, or showing short video clips such as “Hidden Histories” that highlighted Black cemeteries discovered locally, the Times provides a solid and objective viewpoint for students and allows them to think critically about historical events and how those events fit into their world today.”



Dean also uses the newspaper as a starting point to discuss issues such as misinformation, media bias, and algorithms that choose news stories for people depending upon their interests and social media habits, instead of sending people to more trusted and objective news sources.

He notes, “No matter if my students are very low-level readers, ESE learners, or my highest-level A.P. students, I have found that using the Times is beneficial to them all.”