

A NCHS Stewards of History Module

Problem: There are a number of tangible artifacts that reveal changes in community thinking over time. Local newspapers are one such artifact. Newspapers chronicle numerous aspects of life in communities as well as share world news. The juxtaposition of internal and external news reflects the perceptions of the time, grounded in regional, national and world events. Comparing historic newspapers to current ones illuminates changes and similarities.

The Challenge (Project): Ask students to select a year between 1856 (the first year there was a local, Napa newspaper) and today. The Napa County Library has a digital archive of newspapers of the Napa Valley. Students can access the archive online and search the papers of the year they chose, identifying:

- Headline Regional and World News of the year
- Businesses in town through Advertisements
- Local news including crime, entertainment/culture, political editorials, cartoons, and sports

Individual pages of the newspapers can be downloaded to be included in student projects. After researching an historic year, ask students to compare and contrast the clipping they took from the historic paper to news today.

Product: Decide what product you want your students to build using the information and visuals they gather during the research/design phase of the project. They can build an animated/interactive exhibit using:

- Powerpoint or Google Slides
- Prezi
- WordPress
- Similar presentation programs

Development Tools:

1. An exhibit craft Powerpoint is included to share with students. The presentation addresses titling, explanatory text blocks, and attribution cards as well as back mapping the project to produce the exhibit on time.
2. The Getty Museum PDF of exhibit craft and text details is included. This can be used as a reference.
3. Once you have decided on the exhibit tool for the product, you can download a free storyboard template provided by NCHS for students to use in exhibit design.

Strategies:

Brainstorm:

1. Discuss why it is important to look at history as a comparative tool to better understand current events and perceptions.
2. Discuss which years and which newspapers will be explored.
3. Demonstrate how to use the Napa County Library's digital archive and how to download.

4. Discuss product.
5. Discuss and Define criteria for assessment of product to use as guide and rubric.
6. Discuss schedule.

Design/Research:

1. Have each student or team choose an historic year and collect excerpts from within the year reflecting
 - a. Local/crime
 - b. Political cartoons/Editorials/Politics
 - c. Business advertisements
 - d. Entertainment
 - e. Food/Society/Culture
2. Have students look at current last 12 months of news to compare and contrast reporting equivalent excerpts (<https://napavalleyregister.com/news/archives/>)
 - a. What is similar?
 - b. What is different?
 - c. What has changed in the same categories as they reviewed in the historic papers?
 - d. How do the newspapers tangibly reflect similarities, differences and change?
3. Design an exhibit with excerpts telling a story through comparisons with titles, sub themes, and attributions. Create a storyboard of the planned exhibit.

Build:

Using the storyboard as the design template, create the exhibit from the collected newspaper digital files with one of the recommended digital presentation tools (e.g. Powerpoint, Prezi, WordPress.)

Evaluate:

Using the rubric you and the students designed in the brainstorm have the students review 2-3 other exhibits and assess in simple "Present/Not Present" terms. Each presentation should have multiple reviews.

Modify:

Allow students or teams to modify their presentation/exhibits based on the feedback from the evaluations.

Share:

NCHS will provide an authentic audience for your final presentations who use your rubric to assess the quality of the exhibits. Those exhibits with high rubric scores will be posted on the NCHS website's virtual exhibits page.