

Resilient History Podcast Project, 8th U.S. History April 2020



Rationale

So far this year, we have studied many different topics and kinds of history:

- Quarter 1: Current events, geography and a personal approach to the news, culminating in the Current Events Spoken Word Poetry Project
- Quarter 2: The Constitution, including political and legal history, capped off by the Freedom & Power Flow Map and then the Letter to a Politician Project
- Quarter 3: Social reform movements such as abolition and women's suffrage, focusing on social history, reaching a crescendo in the Reformers Research Paper and the Reformers Campaign Project

During this fourth quarter, we will consider U.S. history and current events from one more angle – by looking at times in U.S. history that particularly challenged the people living through them, especially during wartime. With this last unit, I hope you will come to appreciate the resilience, grit and can-do spirit of those who came before and ideally apply this persistence to your own lives, now and in the future.

Project Overview

Here's a brief outline of the project (+ I'll give guidelines all along the way to help!):

Week of 4/6

- Listen to a variety of podcasts during class, and beyond, to get inspired.

Week of 4/13

- Decide on a war you would like to study.
- Find meaningful written primary sources you could read parts of during your podcast, and fill out a form distilling each source.

Week of 4/20

- Research more about your war so that you know its basic outlines, and fill out a sheet describing what you've learned.
- Begin planning how you might do your podcast.

Week of 4/27

- Make a plan for your podcast that includes all the criteria on Page 4. Show me your script/timed outline before you begin recording.
- Begin creating the podcast – in Garage Band, VoiceMemo, Audacity, iMovie, or whatever works for you. Options you may not have heard of are [Online Voice Recorder](#), [RecForge II/Audio Recorder](#) (both on Android phones), and [Beautiful Audio Editor](#).

Week of 5/4

- Continue putting together your podcast! I can't wait to hear, share and be inspired by what you all have created.

Podcast due: Friday 5/8 for History 8C and Monday 5/11 for History 8A & 8B.

Your Own Ideas on What Makes a Powerful Podcast

From class chats during the week of April 6

TONE

- Emotional, personal, touching & heartwarming
- It felt like he was telling the story to you personally
- Down to earth
- Casual, humorous storytelling
- Very inspiring
- I liked how they acted casual while they were speaking, but this actually brought up a lot of emotion for them
- I liked how it was raw and they didn't make it seem so covered up
- They made you want to keep listening

NARRATION STRATEGIES

- Spoke straight to the point
- Really good descriptions and made the whole thing feel very real
- The detail and the dialogue
- The detail in people's actions – it was just very descriptive, which added emotion to the characters
- The music made it more engaging
- The background music added to the tone and they talked about different points of view
- I enjoyed that it went between the book and then the interview
- I like how they brought a lot of different people to talk – it was a good variety. It was cool to hear all of the perspectives
- The small details made me feel the emotions

Criteria for the Podcast Project



- ◇ A **script** and/or a **timed outline** (due week of 4/27)
- ◇ An amazing **hook**
- ◇ A powerful or poignant **ending**
- ◇ Smooth and interesting **transitions**
- ◇ **Liveliness** (that is, it's not boring!) – this could come through many voices, uncopyrighted music, a variety of segments, humor, varying tones, etc. See also your own tips on page 3.
- ◇ Excerpts from at least one **primary source**, with acknowledgement on the podcast as to where the source came from
- ◇ Enough **historical context** for the readers to understand where the primary source(s) fits into the larger context of the war, and why this is **meaningful**. (This context should be woven in organically, not just dropped in like a clump of dirt.)
- ◇ Everyone in the group **has participated equally** somehow (behind the scenes and/or on the recording)
- ◇ Relate what you've learned to **the present moment**, drawing in some way on what you've reflected on in **your self-science class** this quarter.
- ◇ 4-6 minutes long. Remember, it is often harder to make something shorter than longer!
- ◇ **Good audio quality** – test a recording or two before you start, to make sure it's loud enough. You also will want to test how the recordings sound when you put together different people's audio files (probably VoiceMemos from your phone).
Hint: Don't have the volume on your phone or microphone all the way up when you're recording.