



Fairfield Museum
AND HISTORY CENTER



Fairfield
UNIVERSITY

Oral Histories: How Iconic Events Shape our Lives

An Interdisciplinary 10th or 11th grade Unit Plan

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in a partnership with Fairfield Museum and History Center

with the assistance of: Dean Susan Franzosa, Sister Julianna Poole

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Abstract:

This 10th or 11th grade integrative unit explores how to effectively integrate technology and media with the social humanities for the purpose of teaching students how iconic events shape our lives. Our scope of the project includes Social Studies, Library School Media Specialist and English objectives centered on the goal of creating an engaging oral history interview and a comprehensive research paper. This project establishes tips and instructions for how to teach students on how to create and carry out their own oral history project. Students and teachers may explore how to create time lines and use primary source documents. Students take on the role of teachers as they explore new perspectives by reading a memoir related to the historical event. This project includes thoughtful experiences told in the first person by former GSEAP graduates who started their educational careers amidst world turmoil in the 1950s and 1960s. Educators may modify the goals and rubrics laid out in this unit plan accordingly. Educators may further supplement this unit with other historical primary documents, pictures and videos.

Web Address for Unit Plan: <http://md452oralhistories.weebly.com/index.html>

Content:

1. State and National Standards for English, Social Studies, and Library School Media Specialists
2. Background of Unit
3. Example of Research Time line on timetoast.com
4. Research Paper and Oral History Interview Rubrics with Explanations
5. Primary Source Document Mini-lesson
6. Alternate Memoir Text List
7. Instructional Photostory for equipment set-up and camera shots

8. Oral History Interview Worksheet
9. GSEAP Oral History Interview Example
10. Smithsonian Interview Guide

An example of an oral history interview

<http://md452oralhistories.weebly.com/gseap-oral-history-interview.html>

Background: Teachers may show this example to students for how to establish the setting, lighting and camera shots with their participant(s). This video was created with the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions at Fairfield University in mind. This Graduate school wanted to document experiences of past Graduate students from Fairfield University in the short years following its founding in 1942. Four educators were included who spoke about their time at Fairfield University and how they have seen the evolution of education in society. Several historical events play pivotal roles in their lives, including the end of World War II, enlisting in the Korean War, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy, and the Space Race with the Soviet Union. The idea to incorporate a non-fiction memoir, such as *Rocket Boys*, was started upon hearing one participant's memories of the Space Race. The interviews was edited using Final Cut Pro and split into two YouTube videos below. Students may use iMovie if they are not comfortable using the advanced Final Cut Pro program with the help of the Library School Media Specialist. Mac Computers are required for these two programs, but PC users may utilize Adobe's Premiere Elements editing software.

References:

Coalwood Photos Retrieved from:

http://www.coalwoodwestvirginia.com/big_creek_high_school.htm

Duffy, Charles, S.J., Gustavson, Linda, Galeano, Margaret. (2006). *An Architectural Overview of Bellarmine Hall*. Fairfield, CT: Fairfield University.

Furnass, C.C. (Oct 1957). Why Did U.S. Lose the Space Race? Critics Speak Up. *Time*, 43(17), 19-29.

Hickam, H.H., Jr. (1998). *Rocket Boys*. New York, NY: Random House.

NCTE National Council for Teachers of English State and National Standards Retrieved from:

<http://www.ncte.org/standards>

The Library of Congress Oral History Mini Lesson Retrieved from:

<http://rs6.loc.gov:8081/learn/lessons/oralhist/ohguide.html>

MacDonnell, Joseph, S.J. (1996). *If These Stones Could Speak: The Phenomenal Growth of Fairfield University's Campus*. Fairfield, CT: Fairfield University.

Man on the Moon (1969) Video Retrieved from:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMINS7MmT4>

The Smithsonian Oral History Mini Lesson

http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx

Social Studies NCSS State and National Standards Retrieved from:

<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards>

Technology Standards Retrieved from International Society for Technology in Education:

<http://www.iste.org/standards/nets-for-teachers.aspx>

Time Toast Example:

<http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/tracing-the-space-race-1952-1969>