

HistoryMakers Oral History Lesson Plan

Audience: Humanity and Social Science undergraduate students

Topic: Introduction to HistoryMakers search functions and content

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will know how to find and analyze relevant oral history interviews.
2. Student will interact with course subject material in contexts not covered by traditional textbooks.

Materials:

1. Instructor station with projector
2. Canvas HistoryMakers Module

Instruction outline:

1. Importance of HistoryMakers
 - a. Discuss what the database is
 - b. Importance of Oral histories in preserving the unheard stories
 - i. Show examples of perspectives on an historical event they potentially would not know
2. Search Functions of HistoryMakers database
 - a. Keyword search
 - i. Importance of choosing the right keywords
 - ii. Talking through synonyms and other ways to think about keywords
 - b. Topic search
 - i. Explore the filter sections choosing limiters that would not necessarily come up with keyword searching.
 - c. Interview Search
 - i. Explore the difference in finding a full interview covering a person's life compared to the stories (individual segments) that would come up in a keyword search.
 - d. How to create a playlist
 - i. Select example stories to add to a playlist
 - ii. Cover mechanics of creating a playlist and sharing a playlist.
3. Story Analysis Activity
 - a. Pass out worksheet/show them where to find worksheet on Online module
 - b. Select a 2 to 3 minute story segment of the interview that directly relates to the themes of the course. EX. "ELLA JENKINS EXTOLS THE WONDERS OF HER FIRST AIRPLANE RIDE IN 1964" for ENGL 356-01: Major Authors: James Baldwin.
 - c. Talk about the importance of taking your time with videos/audio files. Complexities that they may miss if they only listen to the clip once.
 - d. Go over what they need to listen/watch for the first time through
 - i. Observe: What do you notice first? Is the content easy or difficult to understand because of vocabulary or accent? Does it seem like an interview or a

conversation? Do you notice any background noises? What other details do you notice? What is the topic or theme of the oral history?

- e. Watch Video and discuss what they saw.
- f. Go over what they need to listen/watch for the second time through.
 - i. Reflect: What is the tone of the oral history? What impact does that have on the story? What was the purpose of this oral history? Who is the intended audience for this oral history? What can you tell about that person's point of view? How can you tell if the person giving the oral history have any particular biases? What is the significance of this oral history? How does encountering this story firsthand change its emotional impact? What can you learn from this oral history? How does this oral history relate to the themes you have been learning in class?
- g. Watch Video and discuss the differences that they noticed when listening to the clip again.
- h. Go over what they should listen for in a third viewing, but do not show the clip for a third time.
 - i. Question: What questions did this oral history answer? What questions were left unanswered? Think about who, what, when, why, where, how questions.

Assessment of Student Learning:

1. Discussion of the importance of oral histories
2. Discussion of what they took away from watching the video more than a single time.

ACRL Framework Alignment:

1. Authority is Constructed and Contextual: Knowledge Practice 1,4, and 6
2. Scholarship as Conversation: Knowledge Practice 3, 4 and 7
3. Information has Value: Knowledge Practice 1 and 4

Analyzing Oral Histories

Observe	Reflect	Question

Observe

- What do you notice first?
- Is the content easy or difficult to understand because of vocabulary or accent?
- Does it seem like an interview or a conversation?
- Do you notice any background noises?
- What other details do you notice?
- What is the topic or theme of the oral History?

Reflect

- What is the tone of the oral history? What impact does that have on the story?
- What was the purpose of this oral history?
- Who is the intended audience for this oral history?
- What can you tell about that person's point of view?
- How can you tell if the person giving the oral history have any particular biases?
- What is the significance of this oral history?

- How does encountering this story firsthand change its emotional impact?
- What can you learn from this oral history?
- How does this oral history relate to the themes you have been learning in class?

Question

- What questions did this oral history answer?
- What questions were left unanswered?
- Think about who, what, when, why, where, how questions.