

The Life of a Veteran

The purpose of this lesson is to use iMovie to record the story of a veteran for the veteran's family to keep and for the students to have a unique learning experience. Students work with a veteran or other family member to tell about their life in the armed forces.

Project Description

The project starts with a letter and questionnaire sent to all the families at the school, asking for a response from veterans of the armed forces or family members of veterans who would like to participate in this project. Once veterans have been identified, students are divided into groups of two or three, with each group researching one veteran. They prepare questions they will ask the veteran based on the responses given on the questionnaire. Students meet their subject—either the veteran or a family member—and begin getting more information in addition to that included in the initial questionnaire. They also request photos from the veteran or the veteran's family to help make the story more authentic. Students work during class and at home to research and organize their story, making sure to properly cite their sources. They read books and use the Internet to learn about the time period, do oral interviews, research music of the era, scan photos, and locate and watch video footage as part of their preparation. Each student group turns in a preliminary storyboard for their three-to-four minute iMovie project. The storyboard should include a list of visuals, the script, and planned transitions, music, video clips, and other elements. Students can use digital cameras to take original photos and digital video cameras to film video clips and record the voice of the veteran if he or she is alive, or of another family member, if the veteran is deceased. Students then assemble and edit their iMovie project, importing music from iTunes and photos from iPhoto.

Note: The finished movies can be exported to iDVD for final assembly and burning on a DVD, if desired.

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Understand history through the eyes of a veteran or a veteran's family member.
- Work cooperatively in a group setting to complete a project.
- Create a documentary that can be shared in the future so that details of a veteran's life will not be lost.

Technology Skills

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Use iMovie, iTunes, and iPhoto to produce an iMovie project.
- Use a digital camera to take photos (optional).
- Use a digital video camera to film video (optional).

- Import music into an iTunes library.
- Use a scanner to import photos to use with iMovie.
- Burn a DVD (optional).

Assessment Suggestions

- Research aspects: Student notes can be assessed for quality and content, the storyboard for format and organization of the material, and the credits for format and source requirements.
- iMovie aspects: The project can be assessed for the following:
 - Organization
 - Preparation (Was video that was filmed well rehearsed? Did clips include the veteran or a family member telling the story?)
 - Quality of images, narration and other audio, transitions, and other elements
 - Sharing of work among roles of writer, director, and narrator
 - Length of project (three to four minutes)

Tools and Resources

Internet

iLife How-To Guides: <http://www.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/>

Tools

Macintosh computers (computer with SuperDrive is optional), scanner, digital camera (optional), digital video camera (optional), external microphone (optional), Internet connection iMovie, iPhoto, iTunes, iDVD (optional)

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