

# Newspapers: A Connection to Our Past

Understanding how current events relate to historical events is an important concept for students to grasp. What is the precedent for a particular current event? Does history repeat itself? How does a sound knowledge of history help one understand the present?

## Project Description

In this project, students use iMovie to produce a movie that demonstrates the historical context for a current event. First, the students share current events. The class then discusses the importance of understanding the historical context for events today. Students are placed in groups of three to work as an investigative news team, researching a current event and its historical context. They plan, shoot, and edit an iMovie video essay, using a storyboard created in AppleWorks to record all of the elements of their movie. The movies may incorporate music from an iTunes playlist as well as still photos taken with a digital camera or imported with a scanner. Students then use AppleWorks to write an essay reflecting on what they have learned and how this project has changed their view of the importance of understanding current events in light of history.

## Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Describe the importance of understanding the historical context of a current event.
- Create a detailed storyboard for a video essay.
- Reflect on what they have learned about the relationship between history and current events.

## Technology Skills

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Use a digital camcorder to take video footage.
- Use iMovie to edit a movie.
- Use AppleWorks to create a storyboard.

## Assessment Suggestions

- Students can assess each other's video essays by using a teacher-created rubric.
- The students' movies can be added to their electronic portfolios.

## **Tools and Resources**

### **Tools**

Macintosh computers, FireWire hard disk (optional), digital camcorders, digital cameras (optional), microphone, scanner (optional), printer, iMovie, AppleWorks, iTunes (optional)

### **Tech Tips**

- A typical class of 25 can work most efficiently with three to seven digital camcorders. If only one camera is available, consider doing a class video where a number of students appear onscreen.
- If available, a Sony media converter (analog to digital) is handy for digitizing VHS tapes to provide historical context.
- Use microphones (boom mikes, if possible) with video cameras to ensure good audio.
- Have a portable FireWire hard disk available, if possible, to help students who need to move large media files. Also, consider backing up student work each night during the project.

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