Teacher Prep

Before class: Set up an account for QR Code Generator

- QR Code Generator is a free website for making QR codes. It's very straightforward and user friendly.
- Before class, you will set up an account for all students to use. Go to https://app.qr-code-generator.com to set up a free account. When students come to class, they will all log into your account. Make sure that the email address and password you choose can be given out to students.

Before class: Set up a shared Google drive folder

- Students will need to upload their QR codes to a shared Google drive folder. You should email students the link to the folder before class so they can easily access it when they create their QR codes.

Examples of Databases

Here are two examples of what people see when they use the database on the Library of Congress website.

Here are two examples of what people see when they use the database on the National Archives website.

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Navajo Code Talkers Source Sheet

Source 1

https://www.historyonthenet.com/pearl-harbor-ultimate-guide-dec-7-1941-attacks

On December 7, 1941, Japanese airplanes attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack destroyed several American ships. This battle is the reason the United States declared war on Japan. American military leaders realized that Japan was a powerful enemy. Once the U.S. decided to join World War II, military leaders realized they needed a way for soldiers to communicate with each other without the enemy understanding them.

Source 2

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merneith#/media/File:Merneith_stele.jpg
https://www.britannica.com/topic/code-talker#ref1201437

This is a photograph of two Navajo Code Talkers sending and receiving coded messages during the Battle of Bougainville. The Battle of Bougainville occurred in the South Pacific during World War II. The South Pacific is an area of the world that includes the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, the Philippines, Guam, and several other island chains.

Source 3

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:SCR-536#/media/File:AWM_017402_Noemfoor_radio.jpg

This photograph shows American soldiers using a walkie-talkie to send messages to other American soldiers. A walkie-talkie is a device sends radio messages. One person would hold a walkie-talkie and speak into the device. Another person who was far away could hear the message! The walkie-talkies were important to American soldiers during the war. This was because American soldiers needed a way to talk to each other when they were far apart. They used the walkie-talkies to send messages that were in code, or a secret language, like Navajo. By using special messages, Americans could make sure that the Japanese didn't know what they were talking about. If the Japanese learned what Americans were talking about, they might figure out where the soldiers were going next and could attack them.

Source 4

https://library.nau.edu/speccoll/exhibits/daysofarchives/codetalkers.html

This is a photograph of Marine Sergeant Philip Johnston. A Marine Sergeant is a military officer. Marine Sergeants were in charge of training and leading soldiers during the war. Sergeant Philip Johnston visited the Navajo Indian Reservation in 1942. He wanted to ask Navajo Indians if they would be interested in giving a demonstration of their language to the Marines. Johnston knew that the Navajo language was one of the most difficult languages to speak in the world. He thought if a code could be created using that language, it would be very difficult for the enemy to understand.

Source 5

http://sunnycv.com/steve/images3/navajo-codetalkers01.jpg

In this photograph, a group of Navajo men are in a special class where they learned how to operate radio equipment. They also developed and memorized the secret code that was based on the Navajo language. The Navajo also learned how to march and use weapons.

Source 6

https://www.historynet.com/unbreakable-navajo-code.htm

This is a photograph of the first group of Navajo Code Talkers. The men created a special code that they would use in war. They used both English and Navajo words to create the code. They had to memorize hundreds of terms that they would use while fighting.

Source 7

https://junior.scholastic.com/issues/2017-18/012918/the-code-that-couldn-t-be-broken.html#1010L

This is a map showing where the code talkers were sent during World War II. They fought on many different islands in the South Pacific. The Americans hoped to take back territory that the Japanese had taken. The Code Talkers were first sent to the Solomon Islands. The fighting was brutal. Sometimes the Code Talkers had to work nonstop to send messages back and forth.

Source 8

https://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/blogs/complex-legacy-navajo-code-talkers

The Navajo Code Talkers often worked in foxholes. Foxholes are deep holes dug in the ground. The men would hide in the ground. When they were given a message, the Code Talker would change the message into the Navajo code. Using the portable radio, the code talker would then radio the message to another Code Talker and group of soldiers. Messages were often about where to move troops or where enemy guns or soldiers were located. Code Talkers often had to take and pass messages when there was fighting all around them.

Source 9

https://www.cia.gov/news-information/featured-story-archive/2008-featured-story-archive/navajo-code-talkers/

These are two examples of how the Navajo used their language to create code. Each type of ship and plane was given its own code word. In some cases, the Navajo used words to describe animals or birds from their own language to describe the object. During the war, the Japanese were never able to figure out what the Navajo words meant.

Source 10

https://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-navajo-code-talkers.htm

This is a photograph of a Navajo Code Talker acting as a scout. A scout is someone who moved ahead of other soldiers and looks out for enemy movements or guns. When the enemy was spotted, the scout would send the information back to the other soldiers.

Source 11

https://www.history.com/news/wwii-navajo-code-talker-fleming-begaye-dead

This photograph is of a monument. A monument is a sculpture that was created to honor someone. This monument is in Table Rock, Arizona. It was made to honor Navajo Code Talkers. More than 400 Navajo Indians served as Code Talkers. After the war, the Navajo Code Talkers were not allowed to speak of what they did. This was because the coded messages were still considered important military secrets. By the 1960s, much of the information was released to the public. For the first time, people learned about the amazing Navajo Code Talkers and their work. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan decided that August 14 would be National Navajo Code Talkers Day. Today, the Navajo Code Talkers are considered heroes of World War II.

Steps to Make a Database Entry

Step 1: Read requirements

You will create a database entry that will go in your class's database. It is your job to design what the entry will look. Your entry needs to have these five things:

Name

You should choose a name for your entry that relates to what your entry is about. The name is the first thing that people will see when they go to your database entry.

Claim

A claim is an argument that is supported by evidence. Your entry should have a claim about the Navajo Code Talkers. Read the source sheet to help you make a claim.

Sources

You need to use at least two sources to back up your claim. The sources are evidence that people should believe your claim, or argument.

Explanation about Sources

You need to have an explanation about how your sources back up your claim.

Hashtags

Your need to have 3 hashtags. An example hashtag is #navajocodetalkers. The hashtags should be related to what your entry is about. People could use the hashtags to search for your entry.

Step 2: Brainstorm Ideas and Sketch Entry

Follow the steps below to brainstorm ideas for your entry.

- Go to http://bit.ly/navajowwii
- Read about each source.
- Answer the questions to gather data to complete your database entry.

What is the name for your entry?

What is your claim?

What sources will you use from the source sheet? Describe them below.

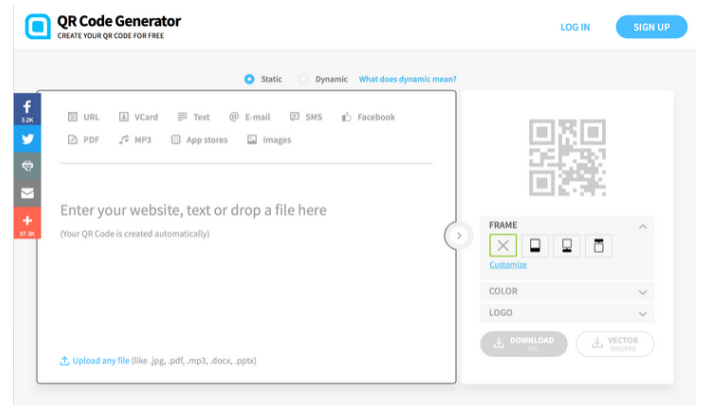How do the sources back up your claim?

What three hashtags will you use?
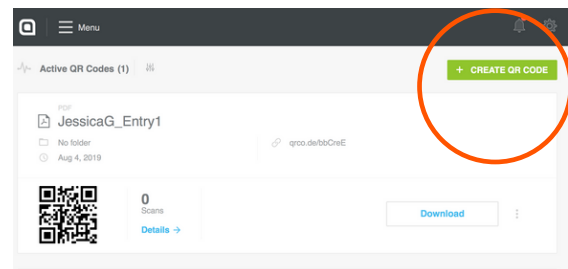
Step 3: Fill out Database

Design your database entry below. You should make sure your database entry is colorful. You should also make sure your database includes all of the requirements and is student-friendly.
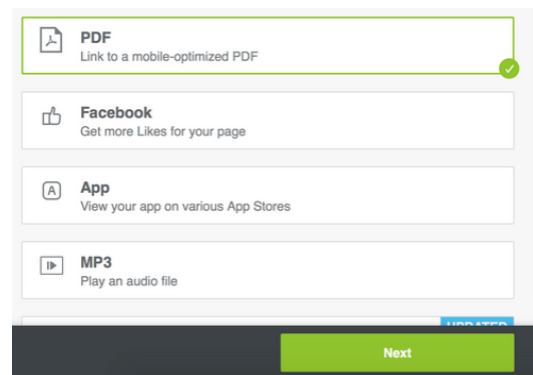
Step 4: Make QR codes

- Go to this web address: https://app.qr-code-generator.com
- Click in the top right corner to log in. Ask your teacher for the email address and password for the account.

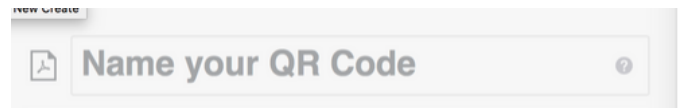- Once you are logged in, click on the button that says "Create QR Code."

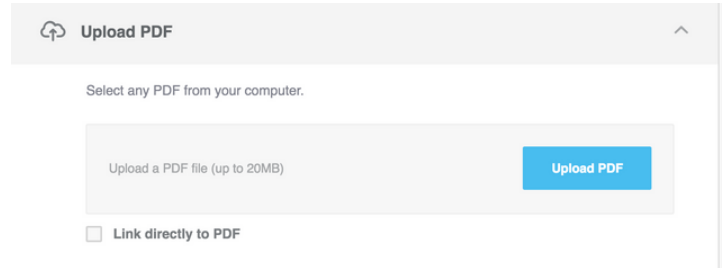- Scroll down and click on the button that says "PDF." Click "Next."

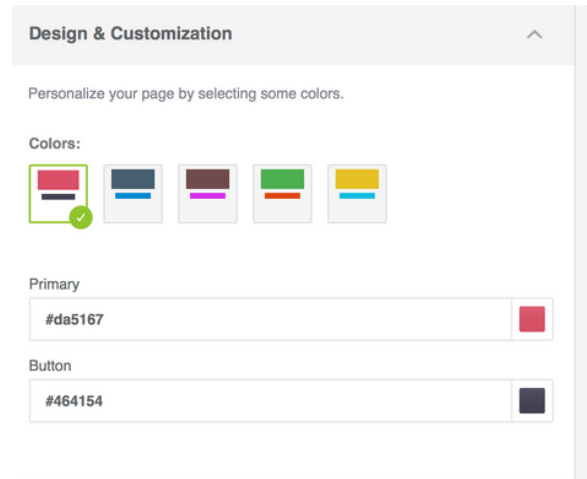- Add the following name for your QR code: FirstName_LastInitial

  For example, if your name is Jessica Gordon, you will type in: Jessica_G
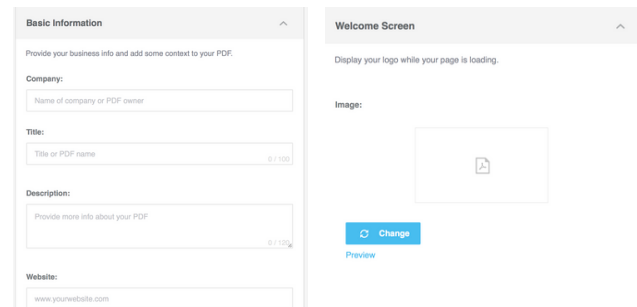
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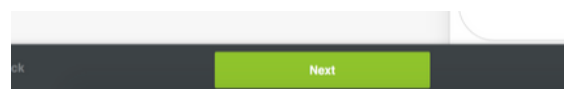- Next, upload the PDF of your database entry by clicking Upload PDF.
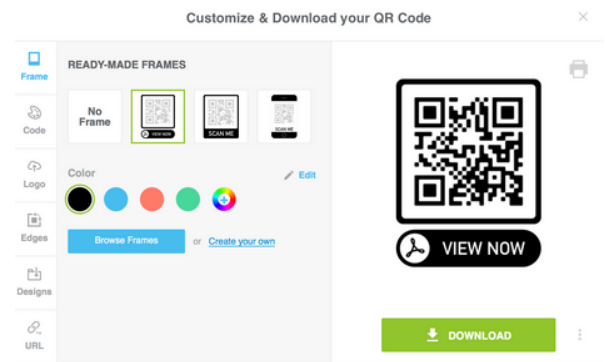
- Choose what color you want your QR code to be in.

- DO NOT fill out the next sections that say "Basic Information" and "Wecome Screen." Skip these sections.

- Click "Next" at the bottom of the page and wait for your QR code to be created!
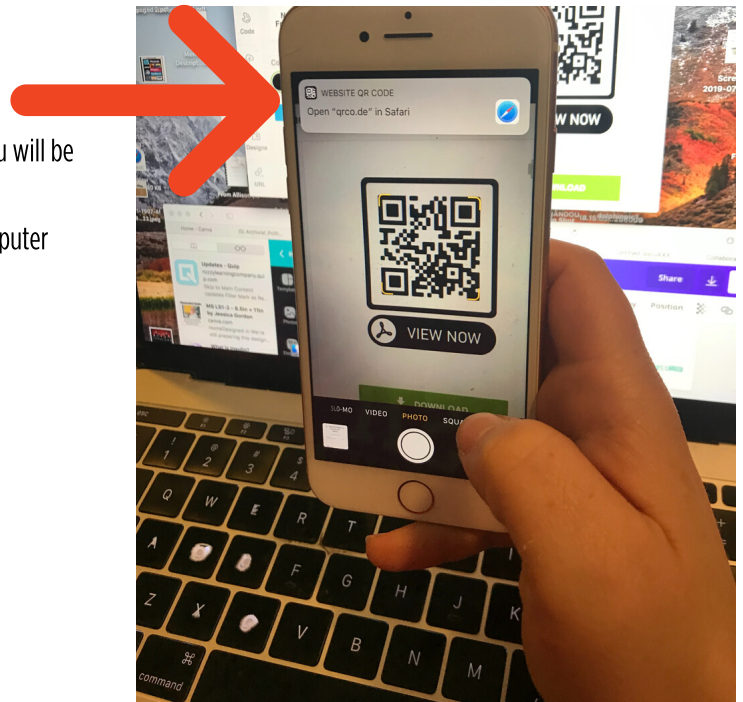
- Choose what frame you want your QR code to be in. Then, download your QR code!

- Your QR code will pop up on your desktop. It will be a ".png." Save your code as a "PDF." Your code is then ready! Tell your teacher you are ready to upload your QR code to the class Google Drive folder. Uplaod the file as a PDF. This is where all of the students' QR codes for your class will go. Have your teacher send you the link to the folder so you can upload the QR code.

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Example QR Code

- Go to the camera button on your phone.
- Hold the camera for a few seconds over the QR code.
- A set of words will pop up that say "open in Safari." Click on these words and you will be taken to the information that is in the QR code!
- Here is an image of what it looks like when you hold your camera up to the computer screen and hover over a CQ code.

- Check out this QR code for an example from a middle school student who made an entry about a female leader during the American Revolution!

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