

Oral Historian: Civil Rights Leaders

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, students will think like a historian and create a Youtube channel about important leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

Activity

- Teacher note: Students will need tablets or smartphones to record their Youtube episodes. If you do not have tablets or phones, you can still have students follow the steps to create their Youtube episodes. They then can present their episodes to the class instead of recording them.

Step 1: Background on Leaders of the Civil Right Movement (10 minutes)

- Show [Video: Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement](#).
- Next, show [Handout: Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement](#). Ask students what it means to be a leader (e.g., someone in charge, someone who helps a group reach a certain goal, someone who moves people to take action).
- Then, ask students what they know about the Civil Rights Movement? Are there specific people that come to mind? What was the movement about? Explain that the Civil Rights movement had many leaders who helped African Americans call attention to racial inequality such as segregated schools. To segregate means to separate groups from each other.
- Emphasize that when people talk about civil rights, they are describing rights that are created to protect people from from unfair treatment. For example, one of the rights guaranteed to all Americans is the right to vote. But in many states in the South, African Americans were discouraged from voting. This was because many whites did not believe African Americans were their equal. Some states made African American voters pay a tax, or test them to they could read or write. In other cases, African Americans were frightened off from voting.
- Have the class discuss the handout and why the individuals are considered leaders. Ask students why the actions of the people mentioned on the handout are important to history. In what ways did these individuals help the Civil Rights Movement? What areas did they represent? (education, politics, sports, etc.)
- Next, show [Handout: Making a Claim](#). Explain to students that historians and other professionals make claims about people and events from the past. A claim is a simple statement that emphasizes an important point of an argument. For example, the statement “Going to school year-round is the best way to get an education,” is a claim. Some people may agree with this statement, while others may not.
- Explain that claims must be backed up by facts. A fact is a piece of evidence that supports a claim. For example, the statement about attending school all year could be backed up by statistics or studies that show this to be a better way to learn.
- Review the handout with the class, making sure that students understand the difference between a claim and a fact.

Step 2: Activity Set Up (5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will create an episode for a Youtube channel. The first episode of their channel will focus on important Civil Rights Movement leaders. The episode will make a claim about the importance of these individuals and why they are important in American history.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Make a Youtube Episode](#). As a class, read through the steps.
- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Have groups sit in different parts of the classroom so they have space to work and brainstorm ideas. Each group will need a copy of [Handout: Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement](#).

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Step 3: Creating a Youtube Episode (25+ minutes)

- Teacher note: Steps 3-4 can be completed on separate days. Step 3 can be completed as homework.
- Explain to students that they will now make their Youtube episode. Have students follow the steps to plan out what they will say during their episode.
- As students are working, ask the following questions:
 - Why is it important for historians to back up their claims with evidence?
 - What would happen if they did not use evidence to back up their claims?
 - Why is it important to identify who your audience will be before making a Youtube episode?
 - How will you convince people about the different roles that leaders took during the Civil Rights Movement?

Step 4: Recording a Youtube Episode (10+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now record their Youtube episodes. Show [Handout: Steps to Record a Youtube Episode Like a Professional](#). Discuss how to record episodes in a professional way.
- Have students use a tablet, phone, or computer to record their episodes. Explain to students that they will probably need to record their episodes a few times as they might laugh or make a mistake. That is okay! Historians and other professional will record Youtube episodes a few times before they feel comfortable and confident in front of a computer, tablet or phone.

Step 5: Watching Youtube Episodes (10+ minutes)

- Have a class party where students watch each other's episodes.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Provide Professional Feedback](#). Have each student fill out the handout and give feedback to one student.
- Remind students to give their feedback in a polite and constructive way.
- Teacher notes:
 - We suggest telling students ahead of time which student they will be providing feedback to.
 - You can invite other classes to watch the Youtube episodes to encourage collaboration between classes. For example; have students from the visiting class fill out the feedback handout for one episode.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement
- Handout: Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement
- Handout: Steps to Make a Youtube Episode
- Handout: How to Record a Youtube Episode Like a Professional
- Handout: Providing Professional Feedback

Not Provided Online:

- Tablet or Smart Phone

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