TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES
AT CAL U
Level 2 primary source-based professional development

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer Institute Reminder
Reservations are still being accepted for the 2009 Summer Institute. This is the Institute’s fourth year and each one is packed with the latest research and current thinking about the effective use of primary sources to enhance instruction. This year’s Institute will be held on California’s main campus from June 22—26, 2009. To see a flyer with more details and to register online, visit http://www.cup.edu/education/aam/index.jsp and click on the links on the lower right side of the web page under “Workshop Registration.” If you need additional Summer Institute information, contact Nick Roberts at 724-938-6022 or at roberts_n@cup.edu.

Act 48 Field Testing
Teachers who are TPS basic skills certified (minimum 15 hours instruction) are needed to field test primary source-based lesson plans in their classrooms and to provide feedback electronically. There are numerous teacher-prepared lesson plans for all grade levels and all disciplines in our database as well as the databases of other partner TPS programs across the country. TPS staff is available to lead you to the lesson plans and help you choose an appropriate one for your classroom. Teachers who do field testing and provide feedback to TPS staff will receive 25 Act 48 continuing education hours and become level 2 certified. Call Nick Roberts at 724-938-6022.

LOC Ambassador
The Library of Congress Ambassador designation is the highest designation available for K-12 teachers. Only teachers who have achieved Level one and Level two professional development are eligible for this prestigious designation. LOC ambassadors are recognized for being proficient advocates for using primary source-based instruction in and beyond the classrooms. On two separate occasions in the past year, the LOC has advertised for lesson plans submissions that meet rigorous criteria. In exchange for these high quality lesson plans, teachers receive a $2,500 stipend and special recognition. Becoming an LOC ambassador prepares teachers to respond to the RFP.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Local Legacies, Celebrating Community Roots
The United States is home to a diverse population that celebrates its cultural richness and variety through local festivals, community events, and other grassroots activities. These community gatherings demonstrate Americans’ pride in where they come from, who they are, and where they live. Local Legacies: Celebrating Community Roots, drawing on the Local Legacies project provides a "snapshot" of American Culture as it was expressed in spring of 2000, in communities from every state in the nation. The Local Legacies project was initiated by members of Congress and individuals across the nation to commemorate the Library of Congress Bicentennial and to celebrate America’s richly diverse culture. For more than a year, Local Legacies teams documented the creative arts, crafts, and customs representing traditional community life; signature events such as festivals and parades; how communities observe local and national historical events; and the occupations that define a community’s life. More than three-fourths of Congress and 4,000 Americans have been a part of this once-in-a-lifetime project. Congress registered almost 1,300 Local Legacies projects from all 50 states, the trusts, territories, and the District of Columbia. Photographs, written reports, sound and video recordings, newspaper clippings, posters, and other materials from just over 1,000 Local Legacies projects have been sent to the Library to become a permanent part of the collections of the American Folklife Center.
To view local legacies in Pennsylvania click: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/PA/index.html
TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES AT CAL U

ANNEMARIE SAYS!

Armchair Travel
(LOC Literary style)
Journey to exotic lands from afar when you visit the LOC's

EDUCATIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA

For this month, we are providing our digital immigrants with some of the lexis commonly used in the world of social media.

Blogosphere: An expression referring to the “world of blogs” and what’s being published on them.

Dashboard: A central administrative area of a blog where bloggers can post, upload files, manage comments, and view traffic.

Del.icio.us: This is a popular social bookmarking site where users can display their links and download syndicated audio/video feeds.

RSS: Really Simple Syndication. A webpage that publishes content from other sites, including news feeds, events, listings, corporate headlines, project updates, and discussion forums.

Tagging: A type of label regularly used on social media sites for indexing purposes. To tag, authors assign keywords (i.e. tags) to associate postings with specific topics or categories.

RESEARCH AND CURRENT THINKING

The digital divide in education is the theme this month. The term refers to the stark wedge that now exists between those who effectively use digital technology and those who do not. In today’s digital age, implications for being on the wrong side of this divide now extend into learning arenas, the job market, social life, and so on. Having technologically capable teachers has become a key to “meeting students where they’re at” and helping them develop as learners and future leaders. Instead of focusing on academic publications, we have decided to share social media videos on the topic, specifically ones that educators can show in class to build student awareness and dialog around the issue.

The next video was created by Dr. Michael Wesch who teaches cultural anthropology at Kansas State University. Titled, “A Vision of Students Today,” this video illustrates the characteristics, needs, habits, goals, and dreams of college students. What educators find may surprise them. Locate this video on YouTube by searching for the title, or by typing in the following address: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGC4H6vryR9o&NR=1 The last video, also on Youtube, is “21st Century Learning Matters.” This video was created out of the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program at Metro State College of Denver. The link is: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L2XwWq4_BY&feature=related

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