TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES
AT CAL U

Level 2 primary source-based professional development

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Primary Source History Competition at Cal U

The second annual Primary Sources History Competition was held at California University of PA on February 19th. It surpassed last year’s inaugural event growing from 36 eighth grade students to 125 middle and secondary school students. Five schools from four school districts were represented compared to last year when two schools from two school districts were entered. Participating school districts included Belle Vernon, Charleroi, Uniontown, and Ringgold areas. Respectively, participating schools were: Bellmar Middle School, Belle Vernon Area High School, Charleroi Area Middle School, A.J. McMullen Middle School, and Ringgold High School. The event was sponsored by the College of Education and Human Services’ Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) program in affiliation with the Department of History and Political Science. The competition is modeled on the National History Day competition and is meant to give area students the opportunity to compete against each other locally while preparing them for entry into the regional National History Day (NHD PITT) competition at the Senator John Heinz History Center. Ms. Danni Hale, Regional NHD PITT Coordinator, attended and encouraged students to enter the regional competition. She commented, "This local event is a microcosm of the regional competition where approximately 500 students compete. From what I saw, the entries are worthy of consideration at the regional level and all ought to enter, if not to win, to learn from other students who have been competing for several years."

Summer Institute 2009

Registration is now open for the week-long, 2009 teacher professional development Summer Institute. Contact Donna Hoak at 724-938-6025.

FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress for Kids and Families

With the combination of animation and film, the wonderful, wacky world of cartoons was born. In 1896, George Melies demonstrated that objects could be set in motion by rapidly projecting a series of drawings with slight progressive changes. Ten years later, animated drawings were introduced to film and it was only a matter of time before the world met Krazy Kat, Felix the Cat, Mickey Mouse, and a "rascally rabbit" named Bugs Bunny. With the development of sound in film, the world of animated characters took flight. Now, Saturday mornings just wouldn't be the same without our favorite cartoons.

The Nuts and Bolts of Animation

Today, animated films are made with individual sequential drawings on paper or on clear plastic (celluloid) sheets called cels, which are then filmed by a camera. When the individual cels are projected very fast on a screen, they look like a continuous moving drawing. Animated films can also be created on computers using special software. If you've watched cartoons on Saturday morning you've probably seen cartoons made using both methods. Animated films such as "Shrek" or "Finding Nemo" were made with computers. "The Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast" were made with cels. Go online and open the following link to play an interactive game called "You're the Animator". You can play with sample cartoons and create your own animation. Have fun! http://www.americaslibrary.gov/sh/game2/dud_game.html
TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES AT CAL U

ANNEMARIE SAYS!

Profile of a President
For well-written profiles on the Presidents, Vice Presidents and First Ladies, check out Grolier's 'American Presidency' site. For each president you can choose from several different encyclopedia resources, including the New Book of Knowledge for children. The “Facts” link will take you to a directory of presidents and “statistics on each president’s life history and the members of their cabinet. You’ll also find links to description of the Presidency and Electoral Politics aspects, such as the Bill of Rights, Checks and Balances, the Constitution and more. For more information on the ‘American Presidency’ click, http://ap.grolier.com/browse?type=profiles

Olga’s Gallery - Art Online
Here is a huge online site filled with over 10,000 detailed viewable images and biographies of famous painters such as Frida Kahlo, Michelangelo, Rene Magritte, Paul Cezanne and more. Go to http://www.abcgallery.com to begin your online tour!

RESEARCH AND CURRENT THINKING

As stated last month, this column will focus on using wikis. For concision, we will only examine Wikipedia—one particular wiki. Keep in mind, however, that most wikis follow the same basic principles of usage.

After pointing your browser to www.wikipedia.org and choosing a language, you will need to create an account and log in. The link to do both is in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Follow the link to create an account. You will automatically be signed-in once you complete your registration.

Follow the link on the bottom of the page that reads, “Go to the Introduction and learn the basics about Wikipedia.” This page will give you a good understanding of the look and feel of using a wiki.

Some of the tasks educators will need to know how to do is to [ teach students how to ] edit a page and to start a new page. To edit a page, look at the top of the screen for the tab that reads “edit this page.” Click on it. You now have the ability to edit the contents of the page. Note that since this is an important page, Wikipedia restricts what content can be edited. Normally, users have full access to edit any section of a page.

For our purposes, add the text, “Testing 1,2,3” to the page. Before you click “Save page,” you may want to fill out the “Edit summary” box. This helps identify your (or your students’) edits later. After saving, you’ll be taken back to the normal view of the page and will be able to see the text that you added near the bottom of the screen. You don’t have to worry about deleting your remarks as Wikipedia automatically erases this page. To learn how to start a new page, look to the lower right-hand side of the screen and click “Next: Learn more about editing.” Here you will find the link, “Read how to create your first article.” The only way to create a new page is by searching for a page that doesn’t already exist; you will then be given the option to “Create the page.” Feel free to try this. You can’t ruin anything.

Next month, we will continue to use wikis, focusing on uploading [ student ] files and other tasks that will help take your instructional material into new interactive realms.

For more information, please contact:
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