

Gale In Context: U.S. History

Modern History Research Project Lesson Plan

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

SUBJECT/CONTENT: U.S. History

SUMMARY OF LESSON: Students will use *Gale In Context: U.S. History* to research a topic in modern history, create a PowerPoint presentation, and present to the class.

FOCUS QUESTION: What have been the most significant historical events in the last twenty years?

RESOURCE: *Gale In Context: U.S. History*

TIME FRAME: 3-4 class periods

LEARNING EXPECTATION: Students will use their research and writing skills to find appropriate sources and create an engaging PowerPoint presentation about an issue or event in modern American history.

PROCEDURES:

Steps/Activities by the Teacher:

- Pass out copies of the Modern History Research Project Directions to students.
- Ask students to think about the events and issues that have affected Americans during the last twenty years. Facilitate a class discussion and brainstorm ideas for a PowerPoint presentation on a significant issue or event in American history from the last twenty years.
- Ask students to select a topic. Review and approve students' topics before they start their research.
- Provide time in class for students to conduct research in *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, create PowerPoint presentations, and present projects to the class. This may take a few class periods.

Steps/Activities by the Student:

- Carefully read through the directions provided by your teacher.
- Think about an issue/event in the last twenty years of U.S. history that interests you. Brainstorm ideas for research topics with your teacher and classmates.
- After your topic has been approved by your teacher, use *Gale In Context: U.S. History* to research your topic.
- Create a PowerPoint and a typed version of your presentation with a bibliography of your sources.
- Hand out your typed presentation and bibliography and present your PowerPoint to the class.

RELATED ACTIVITIES:

English

Have students write a newspaper editorial about their event or issue from a viewpoint of their choice.

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Gale In Context: U.S. History

Modern History Research Project Directions

CHOOSING A TOPIC:

First, choose the topic you want to research. Your topic must be something significant to the United States from the last twenty years. It must relate to one or more of the areas below:

Society
Foreign Affairs

Technology
Economy

Domestic Politics
Environment

Use *Gale In Context: U.S. History* to generate ideas. You may also check the news for current events to use as topic ideas. We will brainstorm some potential topics in class. Choose a topic that interests you—it will make the entire project easier. When you have chosen a topic, be sure to review the topic with your teacher.

RESEARCH:

Once your topic has been approved, you will need to explore these areas as you conduct your research:

- Historical roots/background of topic
- Current status
- Important people, ideas, and terms involved in the event/issue
- If your topic is an issue, look for details about what has been done to resolve the issue. You will also need to develop an opinion on the issue and a proposal for how the issue could be resolved..
- If your topic is an event, look for information that explains why it was a significant/important event in history.
- Be creative and use the multi-media available in *Gale In Context: U.S. History*

SOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Include a minimum of five sources from *Gale In Context: U.S. History*.
- Create a bibliography of your sources. You can use the **Cite** tool in *Gale In Context: U.S. History*.

PRESENTATION:

You will present your research to the class using PowerPoint. The PowerPoint should include:

- Your Topic clearly stated
- An outline of the main points that you will present
- Images, video, or audio from *Gale In Context: U.S. History* to support your points and identify important people, ideas, and terms involved with the event or issue
- A conclusion presenting your final thoughts on the event or suggestions to resolve the issue