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Lesson Plan: Local Oral History Project of Warrensville Heights (grades 9-12)

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Lesson Plan

Course/Grade Level:

- 9 – 12

Topic/Title:

- Local Oral History Project of Warrensville Heights

Historical Time Period(s):

- Contemporary America (1945 – Present)

Thematic Question:

1. How has Warrensville Heights changed over a period of time? What has caused these changes?

2. How have these changes impacted residents/businesses? What does the future hold?

Standards/Benchmarks/Indicators:

- Common Core Connections: This project is in alignment with many of the standards as set forth in Common Core.

  1. Writing across the curriculum, where the students learn how to write clearly and articulate the main ideas through support of facts, details, examples and explanations.

  2. Oral communication skills, where students are able to articulate ideas clearly and in a sequential, organized way.

Materials/Resources:

1. Paper

2. Pen/Pencil

3. Recorder (visual/audio)

Motivation (Attention Grabber):

- Classroom interview with peers

Activities:

1. Time Frame for Project: 4-5 weeks – with 3 visits to the Warrensville Heights Senior/Civic center.

2. Pre Assessment: We will review key terms applicable to oral history projects:
   - What is history?

- What is an interview and what different ways can that take place?
- What is the significance of local history?
- What information can be gathered about your community through oral histories of long time residents of Warrensville Heights.

3. Instructional Procedures: In this project we will be conducting Oral Histories. Your interviewee will be a senior resident of Warrensville Heights. The interviews will be conducted at the Warrensville Heights Senior/Civic center for 3, 2-hour sessions. The interview is to elicit information about the interviewee's life experiences as a long time Warrensville Heights resident. We want to see changes in the community over the years and their assessment or feelings on these changes. (Each student will interview the same person 3 times. Building a relationship with the interviewee will produce a quality interview.)

4. Confidentiality: Be respectful to your interviewee. Remember they are your elders and therefore, your superior. During the interview you can write during interview or tape it and transcribe later.

5. Preparation: We will have rearranged times to meet with our interviewees. This time will be allotted for all three visits.

6. General Questions: These can be your base questions for first interview:
- What is your name? Age? Place of birth?
- How long have you been a resident of Warrensville Heights?
- Where did you live before that?
- Why did you leave?
- Occupation
- What changes have you seen in Warrensville over the years?
- What is best in being a resident?
- What is most challenging of being a resident?
- Any words to impart on the new generations of Warrensville?

7. Summarizing: You can use the questions and answer format or you can summarize the interview. Be sure to include quotes for direct comments.

Assessment:

- Presentation: Students will present their interview and also a collage of 10 photos that represent the   community – past, present, and future.