“INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY”

The Impact of War on an Immigrant Community

Based on an activity developed by Bill Friedheim,
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Resources:

Gateway sites:
- The Japanese-American Internment
  http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8420/main.html
  http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8420/poster.html
- War Relocation Authority Camps in Arizona, 1942-1946
  http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/images/jpamer/wraintro.html

Internet Search Engines:
- Google, Yahoo, AltaVista, etc.

Step 1. (10 minutes) Before you start working, read these directions through to the end. Now, examine the poster available at http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8420/poster.html. As best you can, based on what you can observe and what you know, write a few sentences explaining what the poster is about. With your partner, share your writing and discuss what else you would like to know so that you could create a story or historical narrative about the poster.

Step 2 (25 minutes) Using the resources listed above, do a web search to gather the information and source material in different media that you would need to:

1. Fill out the story,
2. Put it in context of time and place, and
3. Give it a human face.

Make sure you use a gateway site (e.g., the Japanese-American Internment Web Page) and a search engine (e.g., Google). Remember to bookmark valuable pages, so that you can go back to them easily and quickly.

Step 3 (10 minutes) Stop researching and discuss your findings with your partner. Together, review how you found documents and links and assess what you found. How do these documents and links add to or change your understanding of the poster? How could they be used to create a historical narrative and/or tell a story? What searching techniques worked best for you?
Step 4 (30 minutes) Log into the BlackBoard, and post your findings as follows:

- Summarize the research question that you developed in the first part of this exercise.
- From your list of bookmarked sites, choose the most interesting resource you found and copy and paste it from the web browser into the discussion thread (follow the instructions in the handout).
- How did this resource help to answer your research question? How did it enhance your understanding of the information contained in the poster? What additional information would you need to complete your story?
- How did you discover this resource -- from a search engine or through a gateway site? Did you feel that your search process was effective? What search method would you recommend to your students?
- When you are done, read through the other postings and comment on those you find interesting.

Additional exercises:

- Illustrate your BlackBoard posting with an image from the American Memory collection. [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/aamsp.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/aamsp.html) (follow the instructions in the handout)
- Go to [http://www.searchenginewatch.com](http://www.searchenginewatch.com) and find out more about search engines.
- Check out Louise Fluk's website evaluation bibliography at [http://faculty.lagcc.cuny.edu/ctl/dfl/dfl0203/biblio-fluk.pdf](http://faculty.lagcc.cuny.edu/ctl/dfl/dfl0203/biblio-fluk.pdf)