

How did we build a lesson?

1. Formulate historical question
2. Select/order documents
3. Edit/format documents
4. Create scaffolds

Step 1: Historical question

- Grounded in historical topic
- Allows multiple interpretations
- Objective, not subjective
 - No normative (“should”) questions
 - How do you know what you know?
- Classic historical questions:
 - Causal: What caused X?
 - Explanatory: How did X happen?
 - Evaluative: Was X a success?
- Points students to texts
- Often cannot be answered definitively

Step 1: Historical Question

Consider grain size:

What happened in the Indian Wars?



Who was responsible for the Battle of Little Bighorn?



What did Custer do during the battle?

Step 2: Select & Order Documents

What makes a great document set?

- Rich historical information: source and context
- Illustrates a different perspective
- Different types of evidence

Order of documents

- 1st round: establish or confirm students' narratives
- 2nd round: contradict or question hypotheses from 1st round
- 3rd round: further complicate picture

Step 3: Format Documents

Must be accessible to students!

- No more than 300 words
- Large font
- Clean up syntax, vocabulary
- Excerpt

Step 4: Create Scaffolds

Scaffolds

- Include short header to help students place text in historical context
- Graphic organizer
- Guiding questions (i.e., questions that help direct students to key information in documents)

Head Notes

- Necessary background information
 - Depends on task
 - Depends on students
- General historical context
- Specific context relevant to the document
- Limit length
- Do not give away content of document