Design School Lesson Plan

Historical Character Fan Page Designer
Authored by Vicki Davis (@coolcatteacher)

TITLE OF LESSON

Historical Fan Page Designer

ACHIEVABLES

- Students will analyze a famous historical character.
- Students will learn basic graphic design techniques for creating a Facebook banner.

SUGGESTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will read about historical figures imaginatively.
- Students will consider multiple perspectives.
- Students will interrogate historical data.
- Students will marshal needed knowledge of the time and place and construct a story, explanation, or historical narrative.

PREPARATION

- Students will each need access to a computer with an internet connection.
- Student reading material. (Students may have events selected for them or be asked to select an event from their reading material.)
- Present the Quick Guide to Canva to onboard your class quickly.
- Students will need to be able to print to a printer (preferably color).
- Read teacher notes.

SUGGESTED LEARNING FLOW

Part I: Look at effective Facebook fan page headers (Use Effective Facebook Covers handout)

Discuss what a header on a page is and what makes a good fan page header. Show some examples of age appropriate headers from Facebook. Some examples might include Barack Obama, Maya Angelou, JK Rowling, or Oprah.

Part II: Select a historical figure

In the selection process, you have a few options. You can ask students to select their character, you can assign a character to your students, or write the names of the characters on slips of paper and have students draw them. It is best if students are exposed to characters from a variety of different time periods and industries so that when they're shared, the students will learn from one another.

Part III: Set the Stage

Imagine that Facebook existed in the time of the historical figure you've selected and this individual hired you to create a header for their Facebook page. Remember that the header should include a picture of the person, their name, and 2-3 accomplishments. A short quote from that person should also be included.

Part IV: Character Research

Using reading material and research, determine the important things about this person. What types of fans would this person have? What are the major accomplishments that have resulted in such a significant fan following? Does this person have a famous photograph or quote to include?

Part V: Creation of the Fan page (Use Quick Guide to Canva presentation)

Using Canva, create two designs:

1. A Facebook Cover design which will serve as the header for their Facebook fan page. The cover should include a photograph of the character, their name, and a very short quote from that person.
2. A Facebook post announcing a major accomplishment from this individual. Make sure to use an image that helps to demonstrate this accomplishment.

You can print out these designs for display, put them on your class website, or have students write a blog post as if they were that character, announcing their new fan page and sharing with others why they should be his or her fans.

Graphic Design Notes (Use Quick Tips for Great Design)
Before students start designing, run through the Quick Tips for Great Design one-page reference guide. This includes five important tips for creating an effective design.

HOMEWORK/EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Find stickers that look like a Facebook "like." Give each student the same number of stickers. Let students select their favorite characters by liking them. Use the stickers to determine the most popular characters.

Other Notes
Teachers can use this lesson plan for a variety of characters or topics, whether literary, historical, or current events. You can even do this with scientific chemical elements. For example:
- If Galileo had a fan page
- If William Shakespeare had a fan page
- If Oxygen had a fan page
- A major character from a novel or text that's currently being read in the class