

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Voices from History

Grade – 8th

Length of class period – 2 – 45minute classes

Inquiry – How do eye witness accounts from different perspectives of important events impact our understanding of those events?

Objectives - Students will analyze the remeniscences of many different people about their experiences of Armistice Day of WWII.
Students will compare views and experiences to extract differing bits information of the events and the people.
Students will synthesize the value and problems using primary sources.

Materials – “It’s Over” Smithsonian Magazine 2005. Can be obtained online at Smithsonian.com <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/over.html>

Activities - Students will be working in groups of three to five students who will have 3to5 entries from the article. The students will read all of the entries in their group, and make brief notes on each of their entries. They will then discuss the kind of information or attitudes of the writers. The students will present their findings to the class for discussion. Teacher will then write what kinds of information they learned and that they couldn’t learn using this kind of material on the board for the students to copy with their notes. Homework is to interview an older person about his/her experience on 9/11, write the story and list what they learned from the interview and compare theirs to their notes about kind of information gleaned from the Smithsonian article.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson? Each student will comment on one of the entries. In the next class students will share their stories and compare theirs to the kind of information gleaned from the Smithsonian article. Students will write a brief paragraph answering the introductory question: How do eye witness accounts from different perspectives of important events impact our understanding of those events?

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –
Understanding competing narratives and interpretations.