Section 4: Video Project

We set out to create a fun, but meaningful introduction to our 8th Grade U.S. History classes. Each school year we start with an oral introduction to U.S. History. The most important question we address is “Why Study History?” This project gave us an opportunity to take that introduction to the next level by utilizing technology and the constructivist approach to create a video introduction to our respective classes.

First, we had to develop a storyboard. After an hour of discussion and deciding on the concept of our project, Michael came up with the idea of using one of his classroom educational posters as the template for our storyboard. This poster addresses five specific reasons why we study history. Originally, we were going to create a mock broadcast and act-out each of the five reasons. But then, going off of Michael’s idea I suggested that we find pictures or video snippets on the World Wide Web and incorporate them into our storyboard and video. Michael and I researched the internet to find pictures and video that would reflect each of our five concepts.

Once we laid out the storyboard we began thinking about how we were going to present it. As I mentioned earlier our original idea was to create a mock news broadcast for a program Michael called “U.S. Today.” We later decided to take more of a 60 Minutes or documentary approach.

Our next step was to create a script for our program. At first I began to write out a complete script, but then I decided it would be more fun to have a partial script and then improvisation the rest.

We now had to decide when and where we would film our video. Our original intention was to film at work where we would use green screen technology, but due to time constraints and other issues we were unable to achieve this. The decision was made to film at CSUN, but we worried that we would not find an available room to film. After a lengthy search we found an empty room in the Business building. With the help of one of our classmates, Jeff Dingman, we began filming for our project. Time, access to the room, and props were limited, but we took lemons and made lemonade.

Next, to refrain from limiting our creativity, Michael made a raw dvd copy of our project for each of us so we could experiment with it, individually. We then got together and reviewed some of the things we did. From there, we combined our ideas and edited to create a final project. What you are viewing is the offspring of our creation. We hope you enjoy it.

We battled both time and technological constraints. In the end, I feel we edited out too much of our funniest video moments, but we did so in order to keep it short and simple. The highlight for me was the simple, but smooth introduction. The other highlights are the appropriate video and audio clips compiled in the film. The following are specifics included in our project:

1. Intro/Outro credits with soundtrack.
2. filmed video segments w/sound effects
3. transitions:
   a. page peel
   b. revolving cube
4. audio/video snippets from the World Wide Web:
   a. audio/video of Kennedy/moon landing
b. audio of Roosevelt w/still images of Pearl Harbor

c. video of Women’s Suffrage Movement w/soundtrack

d. video interview of Jeff Dingman

e. audio/video of Martin Luther King, Jr.

My project can be found at: http://www.csun.edu/~mc27984/618/index.html in the 618 Project Section in the right sidebar. You then select Section 4 video.