

**HIST348
Peoples of Kansas
Fall 2009**

Digital Historical Narrative Assignment

Digital historical narratives are essentially mini-documentaries that describe or interpret an event from the past. For this course, you must choose a key event, personality, or movement related to Kansas history and create a digital narrative that incorporates images, quotations, and other supplementary research in order to bring your story to life. For some examples, check out *Documenting the American South*, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/classroom/narratives/classroom.html>.

Technical Requirements:

- Microsoft Movie Maker or Macintosh iMovie
- 5-7 minutes in length, consisting of between 25 and 50 slides
- Voice-over narration with accompanying script (3-6 pages, double spaced)
- Bibliography of all internet, audio, and print sources

Deadlines:

The print elements of this assignment (i. e. not the actual .wmv movie file) are **due in the SafeAssign dropbox by 4pm** on the day they are due. Also bring a hard copy to class.

<u>September 3, 2009</u>	A one-paragraph description of your topic and goal
<u>October 20, 2009</u>	Draft of voice-over script, numbered list of slide contents (including the location (e.g. web address) of each image or quotation), and bibliography of the print sources you consulted
<u>December 8, 2009</u>	Final copy on CD and YouTube, with printed cover page, script, slide list (with URLs and/or book references), and bibliography of consulted sources, all inside a manila envelope

Other Guidelines:

1. *Your digital narrative must have a focused topic.* Find a specific person, movement, or event that is of interest to you. For instance, a narrative on the Civil War would be too large for this project; but, you could compose a narrative about Order No. 11, an order made by Union general Ewing in response to Quantrill's raid on Lawrence in 1863. This order was targeted at removing Confederate sympathizers from the Missouri counties along the Kansas border. (Before selecting your final topic, be sure that there are images available over the web and/or that you have access to a scanner).
2. *You should have a specific goal for your project.* If you decided to focus on a historical figure, like William Clark for example, you should think about your narrative's purpose. Are you simply trying to tell the story of his life in a straight-forward biography, or is your goal to explain his policy on Indian removal when he served as the Superintendent of Indian Affairs? This is an important question to ask yourself, because this is how a digital narrative gets its focus.
3. *You should keep in mind the narrative's point of view.* If you were creating a narrative about slavery on farms in Kansas, would you focus on the slaves' point of view, or the white slaveowners' point of view? Or, are you going to try and tackle both?
4. *Be aware of pacing.* With these short narratives, you may be tempted to cram your voice-over with as many words as possible in order to fit everything in. Resist the temptation! Pay

careful attention to word choice, enunciate clearly, and pace yourself when you're recording your voice-over. Remember, part of the assignment is to concisely and vividly recount this historical topic (the same goes for slides).

5. *Find the perfect soundtrack and get creative!* If you choose to only include voice-over that is fine, but consider incorporating audio tracks of music that fit with your theme. This can play quietly in the background as you narrate, or it could serve as your narrative's opening and closing theme.