



What better way to bring history alive for students than to help them produce their own historical documentaries?

Created by Teaching Matters, *Digital Documentaries* is a professional development program that helps teachers inspire their students to learn about history.

Students research, direct, and produce their own video examining a major historical event while meeting social studies and language arts requirements for grades 4-12.

#### **Digital Documentaries enables students to:**

- ★ Research, analyze, and interpret historical events
- ★ Sharpen reading, writing and critical thinking skills
- ★ Learn basic video production techniques

#### **Digital Documentaries helps teachers to:**

- ★ Motivate students to learn about history
- ★ Meet classroom goals and curriculum standards (including New York's 8th Grade Exit Project requirements)
- ★ Guide students on how to analyze primary sources of information

#### **Digital Documentaries provides schools with:**

- ★ Project-based learning aligned to federal and state standards
- ★ A customized, in-the-classroom professional development program
- ★ An opportunity for community involvement

Teaching Matters collaborates with each school to ensure that *Digital Documentaries* meets their individual needs and goals.

#### **For More Information**

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*“Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theater.”*

*–Gail Godwin*



## Program Design

*Digital Documentaries* includes collaborative planning, customized workshops, in-classroom support, and technical assistance.

### **I How Student-Produced Videos Can Promote Learning**

- ★ Analyze samples of student-created documentaries
- ★ Review technical, instructional, and classroom management skills
- ★ Establish student assessment criteria

### **II Select and Research a Topic**

- ★ Identify research strategies to assist students
- ★ Learn techniques and tools to manage Internet research in the classroom
- ★ Help students to analyze sources of information

### **III Prepare for Interviews**

- ★ Guide students in developing relevant questions
- ★ Review interview techniques and manage student interviews

### **IV Tell the Story**

- ★ Work with students to create a storyboard and narrative
- ★ Assist students in developing a “point of view”
- ★ Identify and cite supporting documentation

### **V Production**

- ★ Edit final video documentary
- ★ Examine media literacy skills learned throughout project

### **VI Evaluate Student Performance**

- ★ Assess student work
- ★ Enjoy the show

## Technical Requirements

Computer: Macintosh (OS 9.2 +) or PC (Windows 98 +)  
Internet Access

Software: i-Movie (Mac)  
Windows Movie Maker or Pinnacle Studio (PC)

Equipment: Digital Video Camera  
Scanner

## Recommended Training

14 days (workshops and in-class support)

***Studies show that students who participate in project-based learning programs using multimedia “outperform non-project students on all dimensions.”***

*–Penuel, B., Golan, S., Means, B., & Korbak, C. (2000). Silicon Valley Challenge 2000: Year 4 Report.*