

The Texas Times (English 2)

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Lesson Plan Summary:

In this lesson plan, students will act as reporters for The Texas Times newspaper, covering activities that occurred during the 1800's. This topic is broad and provides the students with an abundance of issues to write about, including the Civil War, Juneteenth, the ending of slavery, etc.

Objectives:

- **Cross-curriculum:** Students will listen and discuss known occurrences in Texas during the 1800's. **(ELA TEKS 6 A)**
- Using technology and their history text, students will search for historical facts to be implemented into their article. **(ELA TEKS 7 A-C, E-I)**
- After collecting their data, students will begin and complete the writing process: Prewriting, Draft 1 (followed by peer edit), Draft 2 (followed by teacher edit), Final Draft. **(ELA TEKS 1 A-C; 2 A-E; 3 A-D; 4 A, C, D, F; 5 A, B)**

Materials Needed:

- Computers/printers (classroom set or computer lab)
- Access to the TIDES website
- Writing supplies
- Creative-Thinking caps ☺
- History textbooks
- Newspaper article clippings

Procedure:

After the class-wide discussion on events during the 1800's in Texas, allow students to spend some time in the computer lab, researching a topic that they would like to write about. Students may include fictional aspects in their stories, but the main parts of their article must be based in fact. Encourage and show students the importance of information written in *The Handbook of Texas*. They need to have fun with this!!

Before beginning, present to students some examples of newspaper articles. For extra credit, students may bring different types of newspaper clippings to school. Allow students to examine and discuss the purpose of the article titles. Once they have collected their desired data, students will begin the steps of the writing process.

Note: after students complete their Draft 1, allow time for peer editing; after students complete their Draft 2, allow time for one-on-one teacher editing. Article length: one page maximum, double-spaced, Times New Roman font.

Closure:

Time to show off! Presentation of the students' articles should follow the completion of their final draft. If possible, students deserve to see their finished products on display. Hang them in the classroom or in the school hallway; it's a time to be PROUD!!

****Modify this lesson as needed. Please allow Special Education students to receive help as needed (Content Mastery). ESL students must also have more time to work (sheltered classes if applicable). Instructors, you know your students best!**