NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2021

Communication in History: The Key to Understanding

THE 2021 THEME WEBINAR WILL BEGIN AT 7 PM ET/ 4 PM PT
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NARA holds approximately 10 billion pages of textual records; 12 million maps, charts, and architectural and engineering drawings; 25 million still photographs and millions of other materials.

Start your research at nara.gov.
NHD ONLINE EDUCATION

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To learn more visit, nhd.org/nhdwebcentral.
“The White House Historical Association is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1961 by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy with a mission to protect, preserve, and provide public access to the rich history of America’s Executive Mansion.”

Start your research at whha.org
2021 NATIONAL ARCHIVES NHD STUDENT VIDEO

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DID YOU KNOW...

NHD began as a one-day competition at Case Western University in 1974, at which just over one hundred students competed.
Presidential Libraries and Museums promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience. The libraries include materials from President Hoover to President Obama.

To find a presidential library's website and archives, visit archives.gov/presidential-libraries.
2021 Theme Webinar

Lynne O’Hara, Director of Programs, National History Day
Ken O’Regan, Education Specialist, White House Historical Association
Jeffrey Urbin, Director of Education at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
Digital Citizenship

#NHD2021
Poll: Who’s watching live?
Special thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities
What is Communication?

Communication is spoken.

Communication is written.

Communication is heard and received.
What is Communication?

Communication happens in gatherings.

Communication is a key part of civics and government.

Communication is part of the political process.
What is Communication?

Language is key to communication.

Miscommunications are part of the story.

Two-sided communication is imperative.
Challenge: Local History

Chinatown Garment Workers, New York, New York (New York University)

Columbia, South Carolina (Historic Columbia)

The Mansfield Crisis, Mansfield, Texas (Teaching Tolerance)

Whittier, California (Whittier Public Library)
The Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

National Archives and Records Administration
Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

- The Nation’s first Presidential Library
- Only Presidential Library used by a president while they were actually president
- 17.5 million pages of documents
- 50,000 books
- 35,000 museum objects

www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu
“MY FELLOW AMERICANS...”:
COMMUNICATING FROM – AND TO
- THE WHITE HOUSE

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www.whitehousehistory.org
How has communication shaped the White House and the Presidency?
PRESIDENTS AND THE PRESS

- In the 19th century, newspapers were the main vehicle for information.
- Andrew Jackson tried to garner favorable coverage by offering federal government jobs.
- Reporters didn’t routinely cover the White House until Grover Cleveland’s second administration.
Press conferences emerge in the 20th century and make the president accountable in real-time.

The press has had dedicated working space in the White House since the 1902 renovation.

Televised press conferences emerge during the Eisenhower administration.
TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE

- The mid-19th century sees the telegraph emerge as a revolutionary tool
- Andrew Johnson installs first WH telegraph in 1866
- President Hayes installs the first telephone in 1879 – his number? “1”
- Typewriters introduced in 1880
TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE

- Franklin D. Roosevelt embraces radio as a tool to communicate with the nation
- FDR installs a theater to watch newsreels in WWII
- Truman embraces television, Eisenhower and Kennedy follow
- Email debuts 1992, a website in 1994
PROTEST
AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

- Protests in Lafayette Park have occurred for more than a century
- What better way to be heard than to bring your cause to the president’s front door?
- Suffragists first bring protests to the White House in 1917, paving the way for the 19th Amendment
PROTEST AT THE WHITE HOUSE

- After World War II, civil rights became a focal point of demonstrations – there was even a sit-in inside the White House.
- Anti-war demonstrations have been a fixture since the Vietnam War.
- The first documented LGBTQ+ protest happens in 1965.
- Lafayette Square remains a very visible site of protest to this day.
EXPLORE MORE HISTORY

www.whitehousehistory.org

*Free to Use*

- Digital Library (thousands of images)
- Classroom Resource Packets (30 subjects)
- Historian Articles (wide variety of topics)
- Short Videos (quick content delivery)

Find us on Facebook or Twitter (@WhiteHouseHstry) for daily stories of White House history

Contact Us: education@whha.org

More Resources for White House History

- Library of Congress – loc.gov
- National Archives – archives.gov - includes 14 presidential libraries
- Sharing White House History – explore this index of other presidential sites: whitehousehistory.org/sharing-white-house-history
Poll: What caught your interest?
Feedback and Verification:
https://Tinyurl.com/NHDwebinars