

Taking a Stand to Save Lives

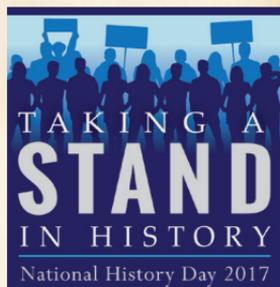
Introduction

National History Day is a yearlong program engaging more than half a million students in the research, writing, interpretation, and presentation of historical projects at a regional, state, and national level. Each year thousands of Oklahoma students become young historians through participation in this program. Here is one activity that can help you be a young historian, too!

Finding Facts in Film

Suggested Grades

6 - 12



Overview

Historians use numerous sources to learn about the past. Historic video footage can be a useful tool, providing a unique glimpse into daily life during a different time. Films can tell us about people, places, and culture of a time period and geographic region. Those films are used in History Day projects to support students' thesis.

Objectives

Students will watch and analyze two documentary films. This activity will help students identify the components of a documentary and format their own opinions about history based on what they watch. Students will use the film to draw conclusions about the people and society during this time period in Oklahoma.

Time Needed

Watching film: 10 minutes
 Discussion: 20 minutes
 Follow-up activity: 45 minutes

Materials Needed

Access to internet

Instructions

1. Watch documentary about Dr. Nazih Zuhdi from NewsOK (<http://ndepth.newsok.com/zuhdi>) and the example Oklahoma National History Day documentary on Dr. Zuhdi. (www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXpl9-8JBzg)
2. Have students write down three things that stuck out to them in the video.
3. Rewatch film.
4. Have students divide into small groups and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why was this film made? Who might have made it?
 - b. Who were the people in the film? What were they doing? Where are they? What did you notice about their job? Their clothing? Their attitude/demeanor?
 - c. What did this film show you about Dr. Zuhdi? What evidence supports what you were shown?
 - d. What does this film say about life during this time? What does it say about the people? Do you think this?
 - e. What are the components of this documentary? Why are they there? How do you think they might have been found?
 - f. Is this a primary or secondary source? Why?
5. Have groups share thoughts with the class.
6. Follow-up activity: Watch a documentary over a subject in which you are interested in. Does it contain the same components? Write a summary of the film. Be sure to include if you agree or disagree with the film.

Additional Information

To learn more about National History Day in Oklahoma, you can contact us at 405-522-0785 or visit www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday

