

“American History Thru Artistic Mediums”

ACTIVITIES (project description: FILM)

1. **Story Boards:** Movies begin with getting the big idea down on paper. These boards work much like comic strips and are a team effort. Work in groups to lay out your epic movie plans. Pick a setting and time within American history (use the included Storyboard handout) and begin building the next Academy Award winner.

2. **Build a miniature set:** Many movies use scale models for special effects technique. Pick a time within American history for your “film” (Native American, Colonial, Industrial Revolution, the roaring 20’s, etc.) and create an authentic looking model. Use research tools such as internet, books, and magazines to get started. Work with clay, found materials and even paint. (this activity is a two-three session project)

3. **Movie Posters:** You have just been assigned to recreate posters for some great American classic films. Posters capture an audience’s attention and should highlight the main ideas, characters and “look” of the film. Pick your favorite film and begin with your rough draft drawings. Then explore basic graphic design techniques in Photoshop to complete your masterpiece. (this is a 2 session project)

4. **Close-Ups!:** Artists such as Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenburg and Chuck Close have used the classic “head shot” pose for their art. Pick a character from a film or even insert your face onto the picture. Students will use silkscreening techniques in the printshop to complete their projects.

5. **Set-Design and Props:** Artists are an important part of the filmmaking team. Sets and props make the scene come alive. Work in small groups to design and paint backdrops and create some props using paper mache’ and painting techniques.

FILMS (U.S. History topics - GLEs)

1. *Enemy of the State / North by Northwest*

(H-1B-H16) Describe the impact of technology on American society

(H-1B-H18) Identify recent Supreme Court decisions & describe how they impact society

2. *National Treasure 1 and 2*

(H-1A-H6) Analyze causes/effects in historical and contemporary US events using a variety of resources. (H-1B-H16) Describe the impact of technology on US society.

3. *Saving Private Ryan / Letters from Iwo Jima*

(H-1B-H13) Describe the course of WW II, including major turning points and key strategic decisions.

(H-1A-H3) Determine when primary an/or secondary sources would be most useful when analyzing historical events.