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## ***Making Meaning of May 4*** **K-12 Teaching Plan**

**Name of Educator:** MaryAnn Harris

**Educator's Teaching Plan Number & Title:** Project 34, "May 4 1970 Kent State University"

**Level of Students for Educator's Teaching Plan:** Grades 7-12

**Subject Area for Educator's Teaching Plan:** Literacy/Research

**Educator's State:** Ohio

**Description of Educator's Teaching Plan:** *Fire in the Heartland* and other May 4 sources provide context of state politics, the Black Student Movement and Student Antiwar Movement. Students complete photo analysis and share their inquiry process and poems/chants they've created with the community, family, friends, and other students.

This educational teaching plan was developed during Kent State University's Summer 2021 workshop titled Making Meaning of May 4: The 1970 Kent State Shootings in US History. The workshop was supported by Kent State and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant program titled *Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers*.

This teaching plan is shared to promote understanding of the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970; enhance humanities education across the disciplines; and illustrate the meaning of May 4 for today.

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## May 4, 1970 Kent State University

### Lesson Plans

**Pre-discussion with students:** Students will listen to the song: “This Land is Your Land,” by Woody Guthrie. Next questions: 1. Do you know anyone who attends or graduated from Kent State University? 2. Do you have any family members, or family friends in the military? 3. Do you have any veterans in your family? 4. Would you like to take a fieldtrip to Kent State University? **\*Note Fieldtrip: KSU Walking Tour/Visitor Center, and Museum.**

**Setting:** This pilot project will take place at the public library for five days in May, (from 1:30pm.-2:30pm. Monday- Friday). A total of 30-35 students will be in the pilot workshop. However; approximately 60- students will participate in the KSU fieldtrip. **\*Note the number of students attending the fieldtrip can vary depending on the KSU Museum officials.**

- **Introduction:** May 4, 1970 was a tragic day across the world, especially in Kent, Ohio at Kent State University. \* Note A three-minute introduction will be read aloud by the teacher from selected May 4, 1970 resources.
- **Overview/unit rationale:** “Truth be told,” the purpose of this unit is to expose the urban students to the May 4, 1970 shooting at Kent State University. Additionally, the students will learn to analyze photos, statements, and produce, writings, speaking, and reading materials for fellow students.
- 1. **Ohio Standard:** Language Arts: 7.3 Use Knowledge of language and its conventions ... writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- **Collaboration with all teachers,** pilot project with J ROTC teachers, and career development teachers, (7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade).
- **Materials for this pilot project:** Resources from May 4, 1970 Workshop and other sources.
  - 1. Book: *Moments of Truth: A Photographer’s Experience of Kent State 1970* by Howard Ruffner

Technological needs will vary depending on the proposed activities. The public library will provide the use of computers, podcast equipment, and technology staff.

## May 4, 1970 Workshop Activities

**Day 1:** Students will listen to the song: “This Land is Your Land,” by Woody Guthrie.

**Pre-discussion:** Students will be introduced to the Book: *Moments of Truth: A Photographer’s Experience of Kent State 1970* by Howard Ruffner. Students will be divided into four groups, (five students in a group). Students will review chapter 8 from, Howard Ruffner’s book. Students will select two vocabulary words below and analyze the words in context of the May 4, 1970 shooting. The vocabulary words below appear on pages 51-64 in Ruffner’s book.

### Vocabulary words

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1. National Guards	10. Holden Elementary School
2. Ohio State Riot Act	11. Curfew
3. Paul Tople	12. Dr. Robert Matson
4. LeRoy Satrom	13. Frank Frisina
5. Steve Tichenal	14. Ohio State Patrol
6. Adj. General Sylvester Del Corso	15. “Brown Shirts”
7. ROTC building	16. Gov. J. Rhodes Speech “On Campus Disorders in Kent”
8. Governor James Rhodes	17. ‘Howard Ruffner
9. Kent State University	18. Firehouse

**Day 2.** Students will view the film: *Fire in the Heartland Kent State May 4<sup>th</sup>, and Student Protest in America*. Students will discuss film in groups and report findings to the whole student group on day 3.

**Day 3.** Students will analyze photos from page 52-56 in Howard Ruffner’s book, *Moments of Truth: A Photographer’s Experience of Kent State 1970*. Each student group will select one picture. Discuss photo in terms of describing the people in the photo, their proposed message, and a connection to May 4, 1970. Each student group will keep a written record of their analysis.

**Day 4.** Students will listen to the media specialist read Governor Rhodes speech on *Campus Disorder in Kent, May 3, 1970*. Each student will also receive a copy of the speech to discuss why the speech was written and its effect on KSU students. Students will compile words from speech into poems or chants.

**Day 5.** Students will present an overview of activities on the final day to members of the community, family, friends and invited students in the library auditorium.  
Conclusion: Introduction: This is a collaborative project between the school district, public library, community residents and organizations.

## References

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/OLS-Graphic-Sections/Learning-Standards>

<https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/items/show/6234>