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

Name of Educator: Galena P. Gaw

Educator's Teaching Plan Number & Title: Project 55, "The Day the World Heard: Kent State and Gallaudet University"

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

Subject Area for Educator's Teaching Plan: Information Literacy

Educator's State: South Carolina

Description of Educator's Teaching Plan: Recommended especially for ASL, ELA, and history classes, students compare/contrast May 4 and Gallaudet University's Deaf President Now protest. They apply the First Amendment to determine *Were the protests peaceful?* And discuss benefits/negative outcomes of protest. Activities incl. creating a graphic storyboard.

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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The Day the World Heard ... Kent State and Gallaudet University



Introduction

- Students will be introduced to two important events in US history – the Kent State Massacre and Deaf President Now protest. They will be exposed to the events that occurred on the two college campuses and their outcomes. They will read the First Amendment and be presented with information to assist them in drawing conclusions about whether these were peaceful protests. They will obtain information to assist them in comparing and contrasting the two events. As the culminating activity, students will create a storyboard about May 4, 1970 at Kent State.
- NOTE: This lesson could be taught during Deaf Awareness week and the following week -- could encompass ASL, history and ELA classes.

Goals

- Students will be able to discuss reasons for Kent State and Deaf President Now protests.
- Students will be able to discuss reasons for protesting and/or advocating.
- Students will be able to discuss first amendment rights.
- Students will be able to discuss the benefits or negative outcomes of protesting.

SC College and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts (SCDOE, 2015)

- Communication (Meaning and Context)

Standard 1: Interact with others to explore ideas and concepts, communicate meaning, and develop logical interpretations through collaborative conversations; build upon the ideas of others to clearly express one's own view while respecting diverse perspectives.

Standard 2: Articulate ideas, claims, and perspectives in a logical sequence using information, findings, and credible evidence from sources.

Deaf Culture

- From the Gallaudet University website “... Deaf President Now (DPN) has become synonymous with self-determination and empowerment for deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere.”

[Photo: Sign showing a coiled snake and text including "DON'T TREAD ON GALLAUDET... WE WANT DEAF PRESIDENT NOW"]

Inquiry Questions

- Do you agree with the reasons for the protesting? Why or Why not?
- Is the right to protest guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution?
- Were the protests at Kent State and Gallaudet University peaceful?
- Do protests or riots bring about change?
- When does a protest become a riot?

What is the first amendment?

U.S. Constitution



First Amendment

- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Kent State and Gallaudet University

Kent State University

Where? Kent, Ohio

When? May 4, 1970

Gallaudet University

Where: Washington, DC

When: March 7 - 13, 1988



Day 1 and Day 2 (previous slides will be covered during these days)

Kent State University -- May 4, 1970

What do you know about what occurred at Kent State on May 4, 1970?

Students will watch the captioned video, "Kent State: The Day The War Came Home," (47 minutes and 40 seconds) – students will receive a copy of the script so they can focus on video/captions not on notetaking.

After watching the video, teacher and students will discuss events leading up to May 4 – Friday night in downtown Kent, burning of ROTC building, and burying of the U.S. Constitution.

After the viewing, students will be divided into groups to discuss the inquiry questions.

Students will present their initial responses to the questions to the class.

Kent State Reasons for Protest ...

- US involvement in the Vietnam War
- President Richard Nixon's announcement of the US invasion of Cambodia which was viewed as widening the Vietnam War
- Congress had never declared war on Vietnam
- Presence of Ohio National Guard on Kent State campus

[Image: Stylized graphic of protestors with raised fists]

What happened on May 4, 1970?

- Students protested on the Kent State University campus.
- Students were told the "rally" was banned and to disperse.
- Students shouted, threw rocks, and refused to disperse.
- The Ohio National Guardsmen threw tear gas canisters into the crowd.
- The Ohio National Guardsmen fired on students – 61 – 67 shots in 13 seconds.
- The closest student killed (Jeffrey Miller) was 270 feet from the guardsmen.
- 4 students were killed, 9 wounded – all unarmed
- Students Allison Beth Krause (19), Jeffrey Glenn Miller (20), Sandra Lee Scheuer (20), and William Knox Schroeder (19) were killed.

The next picture is of the National Guard wearing gas masks, walking toward crowd near Taylor Hall.
Photograph by [Kent State University Special Collections and Archives, May 4 Collection]

<https://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/kent-state-shootings-may-4-collection>

Kent State – Reasons for Protest/Response of National Guard

- Students were protesting the Vietnam War and the US invasion of Cambodia
- Students were protesting the presence of the Ohio National Guard

[Photo: Ohio National Guard advancing on students, May 4, 1970]

Outcomes of Kent State Massacre

- Kent State University was closed for six-weeks after massacre.
- The event triggered many protests at colleges and universities around the nation.
- After years of court litigation, students and families involved received monetary compensation in 1979.
- Others?

Day 3 and Day 4– Gallaudet University “Deaf President Now” Protest

- What do you know about the Deaf President Now protest that occurred in 1988 at Gallaudet University?
- Students will watch the captioned video, “Deaf Mosaic #402: Deaf President Now.” (27 minutes and 6 seconds) – students will receive a copy of the script so they can focus on video/captions not on notetaking.
- After the viewing, students will be divided into groups to discuss the inquiry questions.
- Students will report their initial responses to the questions to the class.

Gallaudet University – “Deaf President Now”

– Reasons for Protest

- Students and the deaf community had advocated for a deaf president at the university for years.
- On March 6, 1988, the University’s Board of Trustees announced that a hearing person, Elisabeth A. Zinser, was selected as Gallaudet’s seventh president.
- The board choose the only hearing candidate that applied,
- (Information from Gallaudet’s website)

[Photo: Button with text
"DEAF PRESIDENT NOW...
Gallaudet University 1988"]

What did the students do?

- Students boycotted classes and attended rallies.
- Students drove Gallaudet school buses to the front gate of the school and deflated the tires which blocked the entrance.
- Four (4) student leaders appeared on “Good Morning America” to discuss the issues.
- Deaf students marched to the Capitol in protest of Zinser’s appointment.

Gallaudet Student Demands – 4 demands

1. Zinser must resign and a deaf president be selected.
2. Spilman must resign as the chair of the Board of Trustees.
3. The percentage of deaf members on the Board of Trustees must be increased to at least 51%.
4. There must be no reprisals against any of the protesters.

[Photo: Deaf President Now protest poster featuring four demands of Gallaudet University students, 1988]

Deaf President Now protest in Washington, DC on March 7, 1988 (USA Today)

[Photo: Protest crowd with signs and raised hands]

Outcome of “Deaf President Now”

- The four (4) demands were met.
- The first deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan, was appointed president.
- The hearing world saw that deaf people can do anything hearing people can do.
- Many new bills were passed promoting the rights of deaf and other disabled people.
- Others?

[Photo: Deaf President Now protest button celebrating success, Gallaudet University, 1988]

[Image: Storyboard of Deaf President Now protest at Gallaudet University, 1988. Chronology related at <https://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/the-issues/the-week-of-dpn>]

Day 5 and Day 6

Storyboard about “Deaf President Now”

- Are the slides factual (true)?
- Are they chronologically (time) correct?
- Is any important information missing from the storyboard slides?

[Image: Poster with text, "A deaf person can do anything a hearing person can do, except hear."]

Storyboard

- Create your own storyboard of the events at Kent State on May 4, 1970 at the following website:

<https://www.canva.com/create/storyboards/>

[Image: Graph template from www.gograph.com]

Day 7 and Day 8

Student Discussion

- Compare and contrast the Kent State Massacre and “Deaf President Now” protest using a Venn Diagram.
- Students will revisit their initial responses to the inquiry questions and discuss how they remained the same or changed after additional information was presented. Students will be asked to support their decisions with text dependent analysis (TDA). Students can use scripts from videos for TDA.

Resources

Clever Prototypes, LLC. "Deaf President Now Storyboard by 1710cad0." *Storyboard That*, Deaf President Now, 3 Apr. 2020, www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard/1710cad0/deaf-president-now.

"Deaf Mosaic #402." *The Described and Captioned Media Program*, Gallaudet University, 1988, <https://dcmp.org/media/2540-deaf-mosaic-402>.

"History Behind DPN What Happened." *Gallaudet University*, Gallaudet University, 12 Jan. 2021, <https://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now/the-issues/history-behind-dpn>

History.com Editors. "Kent State Shooting." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 8 Sept. 2017, <https://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/kent-state-shooting>

Resources (Continued)

“Kent State: the Day the War Came Home.” *The Described and Captioned Media Program*, Landmark Media, 2000, <https://dcmp.org/media/4362-kent-state-the-day-the-war-came-home>.

Lewis, Jerry M., and Thomas R. Hensley. “The May 4 Shootings at Kent State University: The Search For Historical Accuracy.” *Kent State University*, Kent State University, 1998, www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy

“U.S. Const. amend I.”