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

Name of Educator: James Matthew Goodspeed

Educator's Teaching Plan Number & Title: Project 15, "How May 4, 1970 Affected Mid-Michigan"

Level of Students for Educator's Teaching Plan: 10-12 grade

Subject Area for Educator's Teaching Plan: English/History

Educator's State: Michigan

Description of Educator's Teaching Plan: After reading *The Things They Carried*, students look at what happened on May 4 and then how the shootings impacted a mid-Michigan county, Alma College, and Central Michigan University—informed by newspaper reports, a post-shootings letter, photos, and a retrospective from CMU, and Prentice Hall's 2008 history textbook.

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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NEH Making Meaning of May 4: The 1970 Shootings Lesson Plan

"How May 4, 1970 Affected Mid-Michigan"

1. Connection to Themes

- a. First Amendment Rights
- b. Right to Dissent
- c. How Kent State Affected Other Parts of the United States (including my area in Michigan)

2. How are the Themes Carried into ----- Students Today

- a. Central Question: *"What were the effects of May 4 in mid-Michigan in May 1970? How did people in two local places of higher learning, Alma College and Central Michigan University, respond to May 4?"*

3. Use of Inquiry Pedagogy

- a. Students will read newspaper reports from ---- County in May 1970 and a recent 50th anniversary report on Kent State from -----County.
- b. Students will read a letter from a ----- County resident opposed to Kent State that was published in the local newspaper after the shootings.
- c. Students will examine photographs and news articles from ----- County newspapers, photographs, and a recent article from the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.

4. Plan of Action

- a. Upon completion of reading the novel, *The Things They Carried*, students will spend two class periods (1 hr. 10 minutes each) looking at the topic of the Kent State Shootings.
- b. Anticipatory Sets:
 - Read Facebook Post on Donald A. Angerman (Alma College student killed in Vietnam) or "----- Draft Call 13 for May" Daily Record Leader article.
 - Shift to song "Ohio" by Crosby, Stills, and Nash (along with printed lyrics).
- c. Reading one: Read *Prentice Hall United States History Modern America*, pages 553-555: "Troubles on the Home Front Intensify – American Troops in Cambodia, Violence Erupts at Kent State." Pay careful attention to why/how text says violence erupts at Kent State.
- d. Reading two: Read two articles and a letter from Alma Daily Record Leader: "Alma College students call for protest strike," "Campus Protests Orderly," "What kind of world is this?"
- e. Reading three – Read online article from Clarkehistoricallibrary.org: "50 Years Later: CMU Activism in Wake of the Kent State Shooting" by Bryan Whitledge.

- f. Classroom discussion follows after each piece, checking for understanding, answering questions.
- g. Applying May 4 to My Classroom Today – Students will look at photographs, news articles, and news clips pertaining to demonstrations at the Capitol in Lansing, Michigan regarding COVID 19 Restrictions during the summer of 2020. These items would include items that both support Governor Whitmer’s policies on COVID 19 restrictions and those who opposed the Governor’s policies. For example, there would be images of demonstrators supporting the governor and pictures of those of barbers/beauticians offering free services in front of the Capitol.
- h. Assessments – Informal assessments would be reading guide or quizzes for basic understanding of each of the news articles and photographs. Formal assessment would come in the form of writing a 2-3 page paper about how ----- and ----- counties reacted to the shootings of Kent State.

5. Student Use of Technology

- a. Students will need to access posted news articles and pictures from my online Google classroom.
- b. Students will need to access Clarke Historical Library webpage at Central Michigan University.
- c. Students will need to be able to produce a written essay and submit it electronically.

6. Links

- a. Most of the articles including lyrics, Angerman post, the Daily Record Leader articles and pictures will be on Google Classroom.
- b. The main focus for accessing the Clarke Historical Library will be at: clarkehistoricallibrary.com. Link will be provided to students.

7. Creative Ideas/Creativity and Innovation

- a. I want to focus on using news articles from the local daily newspaper. Another source involves using photographs and articles from the campuses of Alma College and Central Michigan University through newspapers and yearbooks. In order to get these, it will be important to get access to the archives at Alma College and Central Michigan University once COVID restrictions ease.

8. Citation of Sources

- a. “Alma College Students Call for Protest Strike.” *Daily Record Leader*, 6 May 1970.
- b. “Campus Protests Orderly.” *Daily Record Leader*, 7 May 1970.
- c. “Fifty Years Later: CMU Activism in the Wake of the Kent State Shootings.” Clarke Historical News and Notes, www.clarkehistoricallibrary.org/2020/05/50-years-later-cmu-activism-in-wake-of.html.
- d. “Friday at Alma College: A Day of Mourning, Meditation.” *Daily Record Leader*, 9 May 1970.
- e. “----- Draft Call 13 for May.” *Daily Record Leader*, 28 Apr. 1970.
- f. *Prentice Hall United States History – Modern America*. Prentice Hall Publishing, 2008.
- g. “What Kind of a World Is This?” *Daily Record Leader*, 7 May 1970.

9. Intentions to Share Lesson

- a. -----, Department Chairperson, ----- High School Language Arts Department.
- b. ----- High School Social Studies and Language Arts Department Members.
- c. My own personal blog.
- d. Alma College Education Department, Alma College, Alma, Michigan.

10. Examples of sources I would like to use include newspapers and photographs from archives at Central Michigan University and Alma College.

[Photo - People's Park at Central Michigan University]

People's Park at Central Michigan University

[Image - News article on Alma College protest against Cambodia and Kent State Shootings, 1970]

