

The Survivor Project

The Action Faction 2013-2014

Essential Questions:

- ❖ Are humans the real instruments of torture? Is torture ever justified?
- ❖ How can we practice resilience, reclaim strength, and celebrate vitality in the face of opposition?
- ❖ What does it mean to be a "survivor"?

Project Overview:

Students will investigate the concept and history of torture, and the experience of trauma in the context of war and political and social persecution. They will first gather and explore stories of endurance and survival from within their own family, and then dissect various systems of justice and punishment through Socratic seminars, guest speakers and simulations. Students will analyze the role of chemistry as an instrument of suffering and destruction, supported through the experiences of survivors. The team will work collaboratively to create a living experience for Dia de los Muertos that will allow visitors to examine the instruments and context of torture from different periods, through the mediums of art and speech.

Deliverables

- ❖ **Museum Exhibit: An historical walk-through the abuses and misuses of justice**
 - Groups of four will create an interactive physical reconstruction that demonstrates the context, legacy and appearance of instruments of torture throughout four eras of history.
- ❖ **Simulated Town Hall Meeting**
 - Each student will formulate a coherent argument and speech supporting or opposing the use of torture, taking into account all its chronology. This will be performed as a town hall meeting during exhibition complete with speakers, hecklers and protesters from both sides of the debate.

Learning Objectives

| Concepts - What You'll Know | Skills - What You'll Do |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poisons and toxins ● Chemical weapons of mass destruction ● Chemistry of special effects ● The philosophy of "fairness" in various cultures ● Historical abuses and misuses of justice ● The evolution of moral perspectives on the use of torture ● Arguments both for and against the use of torture in war and peace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Efficiently focus internet research ● Effectively divide & delegate tasks as a group ● Propose, design & manage a project schedule ● Write personalized family narratives ● Formulate and articulate well constructed arguments on both sides of the debate on torture use ● Design, budget & construct museum exhibit ● Curate museum exhibition for a wide range of audiences |

Major Readings

- ❖ *Flatland* by Edwin Abbott
- ❖ *The Poisoner's Handbook* by Deborah Blum

Films

- ❖ *Flatland: The Movie* and *Flatland: The Film*
- ❖ *Secrets of War: Bio-Chemical Weapons*
- ❖ *The Stoning of Soraya M.*

Challenge Options

- ❖ *Flatterland*, Ian Stewart
- ❖ *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- ❖ *The Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein
- ❖ Any John Grisham novel



Groupings:

- ❖ Groups of four will be assigned randomly by teachers. Each group will be responsible for designing and executing the physical exhibit and accompanying context piece explaining the background and legacy of each instrument.
- ❖ There is no switching groups, but throughout the project different groups will be paired up as critical friends. These pairings will facilitate helpful critique in a way that moves all of the exhibits and town hall scripts forward in a professional and meaningful way.

Benchmarks and Due Dates

| Schedule | Assignment | Due Date | Stamp / Sticker / Signature |
|-----------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 2nd Week | Humanities Socratic Seminar #1 | 9/6/2013 | |
| 2nd Week | Family of Survivors Interview | | |
| 3rd Week | Family of Survivors - 1st Draft | | |
| 3rd Week | Visual Piece for Family of Survivors | | |
| 3rd Week | Family of Survivors - 2nd Draft | | |
| 3rd Week | Chemistry Socratic Seminar #1 | 9/13/2013 | |
| 4th Week | Family of Survivors - Final Display | | |
| 4th Week | Humanities Socratic Seminar #2 | 9/20/2013 | |
| 4th Week | Group Prezi Presentations | | |
| 4th Week | Chem Short Paper Due | | |
| 5th Week | Chemistry Socratic Seminar #2 | 9/27/2013 | |
| 5th Week | Torture Exhibit Proposal Due | | |
| 5th Week | Town Hall Argument Proposal Due | | |
| 6th Week | Torture Exhibit Mock-Up Due | | |
| 6th Week | Town Hall Argument - Outline | | |
| 6th Week | Humanities Socratic Seminar #3 | 10/4/2013 | |
| 7th Week | Exhibit Construction - Check In 1 | | |
| 7th Week | Town Hall Argument - Final Draft Due | | |
| 7th Week | SLC Prep | | |
| 8th Week | Exhibit Construction - Check In 2 | | |
| 8th Week | Town Hall Scripts - 1st Draft | | |
| 9th Week | Submit Final Torture Exhibit | | |
| 9th Week | Submit Final Town Hall Script | | |
| 9th Week | Submit <i>Flatland</i> Final Reflection | | |
| 10th Week | Exhibition | 10/30/13 | |