

Educational Video Workshop

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EDTEC 561 - Summer 2010 - COMET 2

Phase 1: Conceiving and Planning

Topic:

Getting Started in Genealogy

One-sentence goal statement:

To trace your family history, find out as much as you can now, and then begin organizing it and learn how to find out more.

Unordered list of points:

-  Talk to as many relatives as you can, starting with the oldest relatives first.
-  Take detailed notes and, if possible, record your interviews (audio and/or video).
-  Write everything down, even if it does not seem important at the time or if it conflicts what you already believe to be true.
-  Use paper forms and/or software to keep track of data.
-  Use online tools to find others with common research interests.
-  Find out what records are available near you for free or at little cost, and find out what you can do online through subscription or free services.
-  As you uncover more and go deeper into the past, learn as much as you can about the places and events surrounding the lives of your ancestors.
-  Look for old pictures, family Bibles, and other primary sources.
-  Don't believe everything you hear, and don't discount anything you hear, until you have documentation of the facts.
-  Remember that even historical documents can be inaccurate for a number of reasons.

Phase 2: Outline and Treatment

Outline:

- I. Finding Out What the Family Knows
 - A. Interview older relatives. Names, dates, and places are key.
 - B. Take detailed notes, and don't discount anything you hear.
 - C. Record (audio and/or video) your interviews.
 - D. Ask to see family heirlooms, such as photographs, family Bibles, and other primary sources.
- II. Recording What You've Learned
 - A. Use forms to organize the notes from your interviews.
 - B. Find a genealogy software package you're comfortable with and enter all your data in there.
 - C. Note the sources of all your facts, including personal interviews with dates conducted.
 - D. Use pencil. The "facts" will change as you learn more.
- III. Finding Out More in Records
 - A. Learn about genealogy records in your local libraries, LDS family history centers, and online resources.
 - B. Start with Civil Registration (birth, marriage, death) and Census records for the places where your ancestors lived.
 - C. Find out what church records are available, as well as Social Security (in the United States) and immigration/emigration records.
 - D. Study the places and history of where your ancestors lived. Learn place names in the surrounding areas.
 - E. Use Google Earth and traditional maps to become familiar with the geography of your ancestors' homelands.
- IV. Finding Others Who Share Your Interests
 - A. Look into websites such as Ancestry.com, RootsWeb WorldConnect, and GenesReunited (British) to find one that meets your needs and consider joining.
 - B. Post your own findings online to attract others who might share your research interests.
 - C. Use a search engine to look for names along with the word "genealogy" to find other people who may be related to you.
 - D. Find, join, and use any online message boards or interest groups, including those on social networks such as Facebook.

Treatment:

All the scenes described below would be "mimed" or acted out with the sound muted, and with narration describing what's happening in each. Text captions appear across the bottom of the screen highlighting important steps and key terms used in the narration.

We begin with a teenaged girl at a family party talking to her grandmother. She starts to ask about her grandparents' lives and those of her great grandparents. She finds out that her ancestors took part in some important chapters of world history (wars, social movements, etc.) and starts to become interested in her cultural heritage as well as her family's history. She tells her grandmother she would like to talk again soon to learn more.

The next scene shows the girl, later that night or perhaps the next day, doing some seemingly random Internet searches on her family name and events her family was involved in. While looking for "family history," she finds sites that talk about "genealogy," and she decides she wants to learn more. She prints out some forms and asks her mother to help her.

We see the girl and her mother at the kitchen table. The girl is filling in forms, starting with her own information and having her mother give her the details about her parents and their brothers and sisters. They also fill in cousins and other relatives. The mother tells the girl that her grandmother would be the best person to ask for more information to go even farther back in the family tree. The girl calls her grandmother to arrange to interview her and get help filling the forms.

The girl and her grandmother are now shown, talking while a younger brother videotapes their interview. The girl is taking notes and asking lots of questions. They look at the forms together. The grandmother takes out some photographs and begins pointing out some of the people in them: the girls' parents when they were very young, the grandmother and grandfather when they were married, the girl's great grandparents.

We see the girl on her computer again. This time, she is using a genealogy website to enter family history details into a family tree. She asks her mother if they can get software for their computer to help her keep track of all the information she's finding out. Cut to scene where girl learns (online) that there is a local library in a nearby town where there is a genealogy department. The girl asks her mother if they can go there.

The girl, her mother, and her younger brothers enter a library and ask for directions at the front desk. They go upstairs to the genealogy section. (This would hopefully be shot at Santa Clara City Library.) A librarian meets them and shows them where to find books and other resources that can help in the search for family history.

Back at home, the mother and daughter look through a map of Britain and point out place names they have seen in records and heard in interviews.

The grandmother visits again with more pictures and an old Bible that has family events recorded in it.

The girl sends e-mails and makes phone calls, eventually interviewing another relative over the phone and another over Skype chat.

After every few scenes, cut to a family tree form with more and more information filled in.

Final scene shows the girl logging on and calling her mother over to tell her about an e-mail from a distant relative who is also researching their family tree.