

Canadian History 621A - Create Your Own Historica Minute

Activity Type: Standard

Due Date: Monday, May 4

We have all had the opportunity to watch Historica minutes either on television or on the Historica website. These minutes tell the stories of significant Canadians or Canadian achievements and do so in one minute. Other shows, like the Rick Mercer Report and This Hour Has 22 Minutes create other, less-informative ones that poke fun at what it is to be Canadian. In this activity, you get to choose which type of minute you produce.

Before Beginning:

Take some time and view the actual minutes on the Historica website and also the parodies on the Rick Mercer Report and This Hour has 22 Minutes. The sites:

- Historica Minutes: <http://www.historica.ca/minutes/default.do?page=index>
- Rick Mercer Report: <http://www.cbc.ca/mercerreport/>
- This Hour has 22 Minutes: <http://www.cbc.ca/22minutes/>

The Approach:

- ⇒ You may work alone or in groups do complete this activity. No group may exceed five students. You may also enlist students from outside this class to help with acting, filming, script-writing, etc.
- ⇒ Students from History 621A, however, should appear on film OR as the Historica voice over.
- ⇒ Students will be responsible for all filming, editing, and script-writing.
- ⇒ Students must also use their own video equipment, although arrangements can be made with Mr Cheverie for borrowing school resources.
- ⇒ All work must be completed on students' own time.
- ⇒ A script must be created (and provided with final product), filling one to two minutes of time on film.
- ⇒ Before beginning, brainstorm and make some decisions about stories or events that would fit in a Historica Minute. There are literally thousands of personalities and events in Canadian history to choose from.
- ⇒ On the due date, along with the film, students submit a good copy of the script.
- ⇒ The film will be completed in the same style as those depicted on the DVD series, complete with on-screen action and voice overs.

Presentation:

- ⇒ Upon completion of student projects, scripts and videos shall be shared within the classroom.
- ⇒ Appropriate video presentations (with students' permission) will be submitted to Historica.
- ⇒ On Monday, May 4, student videos will be shown in class.
- ⇒ Assessment will be completed using the rubric shown below.

Assessment

- ⇒ This activity's intention is to encourage students to explore Canadian history in a fun and irreverent manner. We understand that we aren't professional script writers or film makers. Perfection should not be your goal - your goal should be to inform and to entertain, while putting your creative talents to good use.

Categories & Criteria	6	5	4	3	2	1
Knowledge & Understanding - Is it clear that student(s) understand the person/events being portrayed? - Does the minute explain/describe the person/events in a clear and intelligent manner?						
Thinking & Inquiry - Has the student Historica Minute been well-planned? - Does the Minute tell the whole story in a minute or two? Is it geared to the right audience?						
Communication - Is the narrative clear to the audience? Is it a true minute (1 -2 minutes in length)? - Does the Minute use solid film making techniques and sound techniques?						
Script - Has a script been created which follows the same format as the actual Minutes and/or parodies? - Does the Minute follow the script as produced by the student or student teams?						
Final Score ⇒						/24