

Trailblazers' Homework Assignment: Podcast Episode on a Human Story from the Mexican-American War

Objective:

For this podcast episode, we're diving into the Mexican-American War (1846–1848), but with a twist! Instead of focusing on famous generals or political leaders, your mission is to spotlight the story of a lesser-known individual who was impacted by the war. Bonus points if they're a foreigner, a minority, or a woman—voices we don't often hear in the history books. Use **Soundtrap** to record and produce your podcast like a pro!

Instructions:

1. Research Your Person

- Find a real person whose life was affected by the Mexican-American War. Look for:
 - Someone from an underrepresented group, like women, Native Americans, or Mexican civilians.
 - Foreigners involved in the war, such as Irish immigrants or soldiers from the Saint Patrick's Battalion.
 - Anyone whose story highlights a unique perspective on the war's impact.

2. Learn Their Story

- Gather information about:
 - **Who they were:** What's their background, role, or situation?
 - **How the war affected them:** Consider personal, political, social, or economic impacts.
 - **Why their story matters:** What does their experience reveal about the larger impact of the war?

3. Plan Your Podcast Episode

- Draft an outline that includes:
 - **Introduction:** Hook your audience with why this person's story is compelling.
 - **Main Content:** Share their story in detail, weaving in context from the Mexican-American War.
 - **Reflection:** Discuss the broader themes their story connects to and why it's significant today.
 - **Outro:** Wrap up with a call to action or thought-provoking question for your audience.

4. Record Your Episode Using Soundtrap

- Log in to **Soundtrap**: Use this online tool to record and produce your episode.
- Record your voice in segments to make editing easier (e.g., intro, main content, outro).
- Add music and sound effects using Soundtrap's built-in library. For example:
 - Period-appropriate music for atmosphere.
 - Sound effects like battle sounds or ambient noises for immersion.

- Use editing tools to clean up audio, balance levels, and create a polished episode.
 - 5. **Consider Diverse Perspectives**
 - Use this opportunity to amplify voices that are often overlooked in traditional narratives of history.
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Podcast Episode Planning Worksheet

Question	Your Answers
Who is your person?	
What is their background?	
How were they involved in or affected by the Mexican-American War?	
What makes their story unique or important?	
What larger themes does their story connect to?	
What sources will you use to support your episode?	

Helpful Tips:

- **Research Smart:** Check history websites, archives, and books for leads. Look for diaries, letters, or firsthand accounts for a personal angle.
 - **Be Creative with Sound:** Use Soundtrap’s features to layer sound effects and music for an immersive experience.
 - **Practice Your Recording:** Run through your script aloud to refine your tone, pacing, and clarity.
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Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think it’s important to tell this person’s story?
 2. How does their experience challenge or expand your understanding of the Mexican-American War?
 3. What lessons can we take from their story into today’s world?
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Submission Instructions:

- Export your final podcast episode from Soundtrap as an MP3 or WAV file.