

# the warhol: resources & lessons

## Unit Lesson Plans / Historical & Cultural Context / History & Memory / Lesson 2



### Overview:

John F. Kennedy and his collective memory legacy are introduced in this lesson. Students learn firsthand how collective memory is passed on through generations by examining their own knowledge (or lack of it) regarding JFK's presidency and assassination. Students interview a person who lived through JFK's assassination and present interviews to the class.

Grades: 6-12

Subjects: Writing and Speaking Skills, History, Critical Analysis, Evaluation

### PA State Standards:

#### History:

- 8.1.12.C Evaluate historical interpretation of events
- Impact of opinion on the perception of facts
  - Issues and problems in the past
  - Multiple points of view
  - Illustrations of historical stories and sources

#### Speaking and Listening:

- 1.6.11.A Listening to others

#### Quality of Writing:

- 1.5.11.A Write with a sharp, distinct focus
- Identify topic, task, and audience
  - Establish and maintain a single point of view

### Cognitive Skills:

#### Comprehension:

- Students will brainstorm and list thoughts about John F. Kennedy
- Students will recall and discuss elements of contemporary collective memory

#### Synthesize and Apply:

- Students will reconstruct pre-existing knowledge about JFK and the assassination
- Students will form an opinion on the importance of JFK's assassination in American history
- Students will list the images from their memory of JFK and the assassination

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Archival material from Andy Warhol's collection of news clippings from 1963. The Archive of The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh Founding Collection, Contribution The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

### What Do You Know About JFK?

#### Procedure:

1. Review the following information with your students:

- The defining events students listed in Step 1. Collective Memory
- How collective memory is passed on
- How collective memory is selective and subject to revision in the retelling of an event over time
- The role of present-day people—students, historians, and artists alike—who interpret the past based on all the old and new information available to them

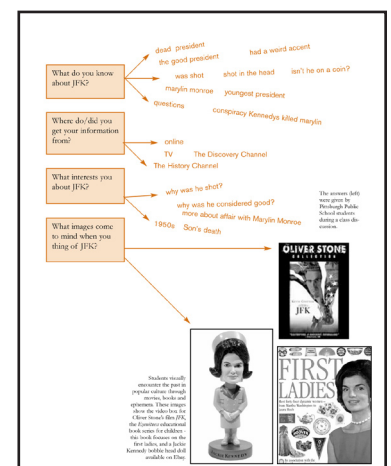
2. Brainstorm answers to the questions in the handout JFK Brainstorm.

3. Discuss what, if anything, has been passed on to your students' generation as the collective memory of John F. Kennedy.

4. Homework: Intergenerational Interview: Interview a person who lived through and remembers the assassination of JFK (a family member or any person who is approximately 45 years of age or older). Use the Intergenerational Interview Handout.

Alternative: in class play the audio files in this unit to hear a previous generation's response and collective memory to the assassination of JFK. Discuss the similarities of the accounts.

5. Students should present their interview summaries to the class. Discuss the similarities in the accounts.



JFK Brainstorm student sample

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**Handout: What Do You Know About John F. Kennedy?**

**List anything and everything that comes to mind after the following questions:**

What do you know about JFK?

Where do/did you get your information?

What interests you about JFK?

What images come to mind when you think of JFK?

What questions do you need to ask in order to know more about JFK?

Create two questions:

- One about what you think everyone should know about JFK.
  
- One concerning an aspect of JFK that you are personally interested in finding out about.

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### Handout: Intergenerational Interview

I. Interview a person who lived through and remembers the assassination of JFK (a family member or any person who is approximately 45 years of age or older). Use a tape recorder if you have access to one, if not take good notes while the person is responding; you can summarize these later. Ask your interviewee the following questions:

1. What do you remember about the assassination of JFK?

2. How were you impacted at that time?

3. Does the event still impact your life today? Explain your answer.

4. Ask the questions you created from the "What Do You Know" Handout.

5. What should younger generations who did not live through the assassination of JFK remember about the man, his presidency, his death, and his legacy?

II. Write a summary of your interview and present it to the class. In your opinion, what is America's collective memory about JFK? How does your opinion reflect American cultural values?