World History
Unit 3 - Project

Ancient Greece Newspaper Project

Introduction to the Teacher: Students will use resources such as websites and books to create newspapers exhibiting events in ancient Greece roughly from 600 B.C. to 399 B.C. (from the rise of Athens and the beginnings of democracy through the first great thinkers of Greece).

Anticipated length of research and production of newspaper after class notes, lecture, and discussions will be **approximately 5 class periods.** Students will then conduct oral presentations of their newspaper to the class. Projects will be displayed throughout the room as students and guests browse through them.

Assignment: Students will individually create historical newspapers which have these components:

- **News event** (report of information, including an interview of at least one observer or participant)
- **Editorial Section** and **Letter to the Editor** (showing different view points on events)
- **Entertainment Section** (evaluation of a musical or theatrical presentation or religious festival)
- **Sports Section** (reporting of events such as an Olympic or other athletic contests)
- **Want Ads or Advertisements** of ancient Greek objects (giving a picture or description, price, and using persuasion techniques)
- Optional sections:
    - Telling of the Future (through oracles or other means of prophecy)
    - Weather report (showing understanding of how the deities control the weather on earth)
    - Comics
    - Gossip Column or Advice Column
    - Obituary or Eulogy
    - Other topics selected by the students

Grading

- Criteria for evaluation of each section of the newspaper are listed in the rubric.

Materials and Resources Needed:

- Computers and library books for research as well as class notes and discussions.
- Paper and pencils for taking notes about topics.
- 11" X 17" butcher paper for putting together the final newspaper.

- Colored markers and/or colored pencils and crayons for art work and illustrations, rulers for newspaper layout, access to a copier for pictures from texts or printed from the Internet.

Procedure in Detail:

- After class lecture notes & discussions students will browse through the website: http://www.teacheroz.com/greeks.html and decide on one topic to be the headline feature of their newspaper.

- Bring in a recent newspaper and present and discuss its parts with the class. Be sure to include the use of headlines to attract attention, photos with captions, and **news articles** which start with important information in the first paragraph.

- Next, make sure students are familiar with the **Editorial** which represents the editor's opinion on an issue and **Letters to the Editor** which often have a different opinion on an issue. They should see a "pro" and "con" on a controversial issue.

- Next discuss the **Sports Section**. Ask, "What were some sporting events in ancient Greece?"

- Then introduce the **Entertainment Section**. Be sure they see how an expert evaluates a movie or play, for example. (Ask, "What is the rating system? Is it two thumbs up or a four star system?") Then ask, "In ancient Greece, what were some types of public entertainment? Are any of these types of entertainment still popular?"

- Then look at **advertisements and want ads**. Ask, "Which items would be for sale in the agora in ancient Greece? What were the coins of ancient Greece?" (Answer: obol and a drachma which is about six obols. Average citizens in Athens earned about 1/2 to 1 drachma a day.)

- Tell the students that they will be **working to prepare a newspaper** that shows the important events that they have been studying.

- Students may illustrate their newspaper with their own drawings or with images copied from the sites or books (remind them to give credit to the source of your pictures).