

Critical Thinking and the Archives Lesson

Preparation:

Provide folders of documents and include 1 worksheet per folder (3 students to a group), pencils, and homework assignment/scrap paper – one for each student

Arrange desks in groups of 3, if possible

PowerPoint Slide with Video clip as students enter

As students enter, ask students to put all their belongings on one side of the room or under their tables/desks

Before beginning the introduction, go to next slide that sets up the exercise:

Critical Thinking and the Archives

Fall 1967 – Spring 1968

Student Organization: Student Board of Administrators (SBA)

SBA President Joseph Kaestner

- Relate the exercise to the time period and the idea of cultural change in society and on college campuses across the country: Joseph Kaestner and other students changed the college.
- Critical Thinking and the primary goals of: Close reading, Reasoning, Evaluating, Deducing, Analyzing and Synthesizing

Quick introduction of yourself

“Today your class is an archive research team: You have come to the SJFC Archive to find out what happened on campus during the Fisher school year Fall 1967-Spring 1968. You know that it has something to do with a student organization called the Student Board of Administration and its president, Joseph Kaestner”

“Your group will look at some archive documents that you believe relate to this story. It is up to you to piece together the story. To do that, you must be a critical thinker – read and examine the documents carefully! Answer the worksheet questions in your folder to help your group create your piece of the puzzle. Lastly, you will share what you’ve found with your fellow researchers. Once you have heard from each group, you will have a better idea of what actually happened. Each student will be asked to email the archive librarian and your instructor the entire story that you pieced together, so each of you will want to take notes about what each group discovered.”

Here are the ground rules:

- During sharing you may ask your fellow researchers questions about their documents.
- You may ask me questions and I will answer them if I know the answer
- I will not offer any information unless you ask me
- There are two questions I will not answer until the very end
 - Did Joseph Kaestner graduate?
 - What did Joseph Kaestner do after leaving SJFC

Take 10 -15 minutes to think critically about the documents your group has in your folder. We will come together, and report what was found in chronological order.

Walk around the room to help students and show them the 1968 Yearbook – Joseph Kaestner and Student Board of Administration (pg. 140) and Father Lavery (pg. 23)

Take each document in chronological order, and have students report out:

- Show document
- Explain document content
- Answer worksheet questions
- Take questions from the group

Students should be taking notes as they will have homework, creating a narrative of the story with supporting evidence and a paragraph reflecting on the exercise.

At the end, share the House Resolution Document with the students to bring the story together.