

Region 4, Teaching American History Resource Center

Workshop Facilitator's Guide

Workshop Outcome

Gain familiarity with the CaseNEX Teaching American History Resource Center, including the teaching resources available and how to navigate the site to quickly and easily put them to use.

Location and Materials: Deliver the workshop in a computer lab. One computer should be connected to a projector for presentation purposes, and teachers should each have access to a computer for hand-on exploration.

Preparation:

- Spend 30-60 minutes reviewing this Facilitator's Guide and the TAH Resource Center website prior to leading the workshop.
- Be sure you are familiar with the website and comfortable explaining its various components.
- Arrange the location and be sure the internet and projector connections are working prior to the workshop.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1, Introduce Yourself Introduce yourself to the group, sharing information about your background in education and relevant experiences.

(2 minutes)

Step 2, Provide Focus Using the computer and projector, login to the CaseNEX TAH Resource center (<http://www.casenex.com/casenet/frontPages/resourceCenter/>).

- Start by pointing out the organization and structure of the website, noting that each Grade-Level Resource Page contains the same items listed in the “Resource Overviews” box on the right.
- Select one grade level for demonstration purposes. Click on each item within that Grade-Level Resource Page and explain its purpose as follows:
 - The NYS Learning Standards and Core Curriculum in Social Studies at the top of each Grade-Level Page points to the curriculum for that grade.
 - The Primary Sources and Lesson Plans links contain tools to enhance social studies education:
 - explanations of primary sources and how to use them to enliven social studies;
 - selected primary sources related to each grade levels’ social studies curriculum;
 - access to primary sources search engines for independent research;
 - lesson plans on how to use primary sources to engage students in higher-level thinking; and
 - additional history lesson plans developed under the Region 4 Teaching American History grant and videos of teacher reflections on those plans.
 - The Museum Connections link provides access to New York City museums supporting each grade’s social studies curriculum.
 - The Additional Resources link points to an annotated list of resources by grade level that support the social studies curriculum.

(15-30 minutes)

Step 3, Hands-on Exploration Teachers now have an opportunity to explore the TAH Resource Center on their own.

- Be sure everyone can access the TAH Resource Center on individual computers in the lab.
- Ask teachers to identify a lesson or unit they will teach in coming weeks and to decide on a related focus for the next 30 minutes of exploration (curriculum review, primary sources and lesson plans, museum connections, or additional resources).
- Teachers should prepare to share one useful resource and how they may use it with their students with the group.

(30 minutes)

Step 4, Closing Share findings with the group.

- Teachers may describe what they found to the whole group, share with a partner, or demonstrate what they found and where using the computer and projector (recommended!).
- Teachers should include ideas about how they will use their selected resource with students.

(10-20 minutes)