

VIRGINIA GAZETTE NEWSCAST

Materials:

Copies of Virginia Gazette Newspapers; they can be found online:

<http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/VirginiaGazette/VGbyYear.cfm>

Optional: graphic organizer, rubric or product guide, newscast evaluations

Objective:

Standard 2: Students will understand the chronology and significance of key events leading to self-government. (You may focus on a more narrow topic depending on the issue(s) that you use).

Prerequisite Knowledge:

- How to read Primary sources (i.e. s's look like f's), practice with a shorter piece.
- Know some basics of colonial life and its history during the time period that they will be reading.
- Know how a newscast is presented (watch a clip of a modern day one if needed).

Lesson Outline (2-3 days)

1. Tell students that they will be reading newspapers from colonial times (state the year if all students will be doing the same newspaper or same time). They must interpret one (or two) of the main articles and present it as a modern day newscast. Included will be a commercial break using at least two of the classified ads. (You may want to require a runaway ad if you are focusing on slavery.)
2. Pass out newspapers and graphic organizers (optional) to small groups.
3. Give time for them to first read and pick the articles and classified ads they want to use.
4. Have them use the graphic organizer or their notebook to write down notes of the important dates, people, places, events, and details of their article(s) and classified ads.
5. Create a rubric or product guide on how each newscast should look (should there be props, costumes, voice, time, etc.) and what they should include (people, Places, dates, events, details).
6. Have groups plan out their newscast and commercials. (If you have time and equipment, they may record using iMovie or something similar)
7. Present to the class
8. Summarize with the class after each newscast. What was the event? Who were the people involved? Why was this important? What were the commercials about? You may want to have students take notes on presentations or have a short paper (newscast evaluations) to fill out to help keep students on task and accountable.