

Lights, Camera, MEDIA Literacy!
Lesson Plan # 22

Topics:

Journal Writing
Creating a Radio Show
The History of Radio
WAR OF THE WORLDS (1938)

Outcomes:

Students will follow organizational procedures.
Students will see, hear, and use applicable vocabulary.
Students will produce a group radio show.
Students will record information about the history of radio.
Students will listen and react to the *WAR OF THE WORLDS* radio broadcast.
Students will express their views about early public broadcasting.

Materials:

Writing journals
LCD projector
Chart paper
Post-its
Individual student pocket folders
Computers
Computer lab (if possible)

HANDOUT: The History of Radio

CD: *War Of The Worlds (with Teacher's Notes)*

New Vocabulary: telegraph, broadcast, electromagnetic waves

Sequence of Events:

I. Journal Writing (15)

1. Prompt:

What are your feelings about early radio?

II. Creating a Radio Show (65)

1. Allow students more time to complete their short radio shows based on *FLASH GORDON*.

HANDOUT: Creating a Radio Show (Students received this last session.)

- 2) Groups finish work on their productions and share with the class.

III. Radio's Start (35)

1. Remind students that up until the 20th century, there was no radio. People never heard any voices other than those nearby. Have them imagine how spooky it must have been the first time there was a radio broadcast.
2. List two categories on the board:
 "Inventions Leading to Radio"
 "People Who Helped Start Radio."

Have students discuss in their groups how they think radio might have first gotten started. One person in each group should write guesses from their group for each of these categories.. Most likely there will be few guesses. Point out to students how little is usually taught about this invention and how they will soon become the experts. First they will have an opportunity to check their guesses as they try to put the history of radio in place with the help of a worksheet.

HANDOUT: The History of Radio

Allow time to complete via a computer lab "scavenger hunt."
Review answers together.

IV. War of the Worlds (70)

1. Ask students if they have heard of "War of the Worlds."
Many will mention the films of that title. Explain that originally this was a novel by H.G. Wells and adapted for radio broadcast performed by Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater the night before Halloween, 1938. The reaction to this show was a wake-up call about the power of broadcasting.
2. Together read the article "War of the Worlds. Orson Welles, and The Invasion from Mars" at this website:
<http://transparencynow.com/welles.htm>
3. Show students the newspaper articles and the police log sheet.
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_gazette_p1_p1.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_gazette_p1_p2.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_gazette_p3.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page1p1.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page2p1.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page1p2.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page2p2.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page2p3.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/trenton_times_page3p3.htm
http://www.war-ofthe-worlds.co.uk/jersey_police.htm
4. Tell students that they will now experience the one-hour broadcast just as people heard it in 1938. Being media-savvy, they should be able to gather support for this broadcast being fictitioussomething listeners in 1938 weren't educated to do.
5. Play the radio show without interruption during which students list support for this show being a dramatization. (*See Teacher's Notes for examples*).

CD: WAR OF THE WORLDS

6. Ask students to share their lists with the class and discuss.

V. Reflection (15)

1. Direct students to the hanging chart paper labeled:

What did you learn about the influence of early broadcasting?

2. Hand out Post-its on which students write and post.

3. Review the comments on the Post-Its with the class, so students have a sense of what was learned. Make sure to clear up any misconceptions.