



2010 *Back to History* Lesson Plan  
Summer Institute  
“Dominion of War”

**Team Members:** Michelle Gouge, Pam Liebhard, Darlene McClurg, Eric Vonberg

**Instructional Unit:** Social Studies - WWII personal experience

**Title of Lesson:** Oral History: WWII “Portrait of the American Experience”

**Grade Level:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**Description:** Study of personal accounts through primary source oral history of American soldiers and civilians.

**Standards:** Social Studies Skills and Methods

1. Obtain information from a variety of print and electronic sources and analyze its reliability including:
  - a. accuracy of facts
  - b. credentials of the source

3. Differentiate between primary and secondary source

- Thinking and Organizing
4. Read information critically in order to identify:
    - a. author
    - b. author’s perspective
    - c. purpose

6. Draw inferences from relevant information

7. Organize key ideas by taking notes that paraphrase or summarize

Language Arts : Reading Process : Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies

Comprehension Strategies

3. Make critical comparisons across texts.

Language Arts : Writing Applications

5. Produce informal writings for various purposes.

**Duration:** One to two weeks



### **Primary Source Materials:**

Dayton Codebreakers. Deborah Anderson, [www.daytoncodebreakers.org](http://www.daytoncodebreakers.org).

Eyewitness to History: History through the eyes of those who lived it.  
[www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com).

Veterans History Project. American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress,  
<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

### **Warm-up:**

KWL chart of WWII

Take an informal survey of class to see if any students have relatives who fought in the war.

Show a 5/10 minute video clip of the war.

### **Instructional Strategies:**

Examine primary source interviews, class discussions

Interview process, personal research, analyze oral histories and interview transcripts

Pacific Theatre/European Theatre/Home front

### **Lesson Notes:**

1. Use attached power point slides.
2. The power point has pictures and information for the following main events/topics from WWII:
  - a. Pearl Harbor
  - b. Normandy Landing - D- Day
  - c. Code Breakers
  - d. Iwo Jima
  - e. Hiroshima
3. The power point can be used as an introduction to each topic. You can then provide each student/group an oral history for each topic. Students can also find their own oral histories for assigned events/topics.
4. Read about the event in textbook and compare with the personal account of that event/topic.



**Practice:**

1. Students will create a world map and show where each person was from as well as where the person fought.
2. Make a timeline to show length of service.
3. Read oral history and/or interview transcript. Analyze the oral history/transcript and write a letter home as that person.

**Assessment Question:**

What knowledge can you gain from reading an oral history that you cannot get from reading about an event in a textbook?

**Extension Activity:**

Conduct an interview of a WWII veteran.  
Reader's Theatre using oral histories/transcripts  
Choose another war and find oral histories and compare to WWII sources.