Lesson Plan for Educators

Regional Relics of Prohibition

Grade Levels 9-12

**Summary:** In this lesson, high school students will research, write about, and document Prohibition history in his or her own community. Using varied research from resources (such as the local library, the Evanston History Center, and community historic objects related to Prohibition); interviews with local residents (bar owners, wineries, law enforcement, antique shop owners etc.); and by documenting research and interviews using cell phone photography or video; students can compare and contrast local stories with historic facts and objects experienced through the *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibition. Information can be shared with fellow students or the public as a simple oral presentation, multi-media presentation, (YOU Tube video, PowerPoint), or as an online web-based class project using free Open Source website design software that integrates text, photos, and video.

**Objectives:**

- Students will read and process historic information from varied sources.

- Students will integrate Prohibition stories collected from personal interviews and compare with stories with researched historic facts.

- Students will consider how objects (documents, artifacts, or photos) can communicate a story about local history.

- Students will synthesize research and create a factual narrative.

- Students will support their written article/text using images (photographs and or video).

- Students will present their historic research as an oral presentation or multimedia presentation.
Materials:

- Notebooks and writing tool for recording research
- Internet access for conducting research
- Cell phone or other device to make photos, movie, or audio record interview
- Computer with PowerPoint software (if desired) for creating presentation or making Open Source website
- Projector to connect to computer for presentation

Lesson Time:

- One class period for visiting the exhibition *Spirited: Prohibition in America*
- One class period for research
- Out of class time for conducting interviews or for doing research in person
- Out of class time (or in class if desired) to prepare presentation
- One class period to share presentations with others using Power Point or through viewing and discussing multi-media presentation

Lesson Procedures:

Following a visit to the *Spirited: Prohibition in America* exhibition, pose this question to students to prompt investigation: **“How did Prohibition impact Evanston and specifically the life of one of its residents?”**

Have students explore how Prohibition affected their local community and residents (or descendants of residents) who lived in their city between 1920 and 1933 by researching at the Evanston History Center, online, at the library, or other local government or cultural agencies.

Have students conduct a research interview with one local resident (bar owner of an establishment that was a speakeasy in that era, a person whose family might have bootlegged liquor or made moonshine, a notorious local gangster or relative of that gangster, someone who enforced the law in the 1920s or was related to this person, a local distillery or winery or brewery that was open in the 1920s that might have been affected by the 18th Amendment, or an antique dealer or collector who owns an object from that era that relays a local story).

Have students record the interview, take notes, and make photos or a video of the person and/or the related Prohibition artifact.

Have students synthesize the research content and interview into an illustrated one or two-page factual narrative to describe a local Prohibition story.

Present ideas for inspiring students to share their researched narrative content with others: suggest they create an oral presentation and share photos, create a PowerPoint presentation that tells the story through text and image or with video, make a short movie,
or design a website that integrates image and text.

Following the creation of the presentation, have each student share his or her local Prohibition stories with the class or a broader public.

**Resources:**

- View the PBS Ken Burns’ *Prohibition* documentary as a classroom follow-up to the *Spirited: Prohibition in America* and to inspire students to research and write their own local Prohibition story.
- Build your own website to share the student research projects using a free platform- http://www.wix.com/

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