MYSTERY LESSON on SOUNDTRAP WEBSITE

Crime and Mystery

Open example project

Literacy   Social Science   History   Social Studies   Elementary · Middle School · High School · Post-Secondary

Essential Outcome(s)

- Analyze photo, video, audio, and descriptive evidence
- Problem solve through critical and analytical thinking/deductive reasoning
- Infuse supportive data and a proper hypothesis into a mystery / crime
- Develop Digital Literacy practices that inspire creativity and a multi-sensory experience

Crime and Mystery

Activity/Project

The teacher brainstorms the crime + mystery. What is your target audience and content being taught?

The teacher creates a narrative with characters, mystery, intrigue, and evidence. Crime / Mystery can be simple (who stole the cookie) to complex (computer hacking involving coding and ciphers) and everything in between. The solution to the Crime / Mystery can be fluid and interpretive or clear. This will depend on teacher-created evidence and the depth of audio recordings.

The teacher will create pieces (images) of evidence using Canva.

The teacher will write out a script/scripts and record audio for the story on Soundtrap. These scripts can be created as "Suspect Interviews, Witness Interviews, overheard conversations, telephone conversations, or video / social media posts (see step 5). Choose a microphone preset like Telephone, Clean, Dizzy, Echo, etc. to record a character's dialogue. Record the full script for one character. Add the voice effects (Voice Transform, Change Pitch, and Autotune features to create different voiced characters). Then clip and edit the recording.

The teacher will use Soundtrap, Canva, and previously created pieces of evidence to create audio descriptors for each item. Record audio descriptors of the pieces of evidence on Soundtrap. Upload completed audio files to Canva. Create a video by inserting an audio file and an image of evidence.

Once the teacher has created their Soundtrap project, they will create an assignment from the template and share a copy with students.

Students will then listen to the recording, add written timestamped comments, and record their reflections. Student reflections will include an explanation of who committed the crime by providing supportive evidence and a clear motive for the crime.

Extended Learning

- Students can create a group podcast in Soundtrap sharing their experiences during the previous lesson.
- Students can create their own mystery story in Soundtrap and share it with peers.

About the author

The author of this is Tommy Williams. Tommy has been a teacher for 18 years at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton, Massachusetts. Tommy teaches History / Social Studies to grades 9-12 and is also the school's Instructional Technology Coach.