Teaching with Primary Sources

Study Guide Questions

1. Is an active program of instruction necessary in the archives?
2. What practical steps could you and your institution take to foster archival literacy in local schools?
3. What is the most effective primary source assignment you have used? Why was it so effective?
4. How have you handled an assignment that did not work as planned?
5. How can you work with teachers and faculty to integrate primary sources into the K–12 classroom? In college courses? In online courses?
6. What strategies have you used to begin building relationships with faculty and teachers?
7. How can the archives profession and archivists better collaborate with other organizations or professions interested in teaching with primary sources?
8. How have you balanced frequent student use of your collections with preservation and security needs of the materials?
9. What ideas do you have for translating your in-person instructional activities into the online teaching environment? Are there additional skills or tools you need to do this?
10. What infrastructure does your organization have in place that supports your involvement in teaching and learning? How might you pitch the idea of becoming more actively involved in instruction to an administrator or other stakeholders? What value does teaching with primary sources bring to your organization?
11. What assessment approaches have you used that would best measure learning with primary sources?
12. As an instructional archivist, what do you need to become a better instructor?