Writing a researched web story assignment 1

Type: Short assignment

Learning objectives

- Students learn to write for the web, and recognize how that differs from other writing styles.
- Students learn to search for relevant literature and apply source criticism to online sources.

Assignment suggestion

Explore the *Inventing Europe* website. Write a short essay on a technical object in the *Inventing Europe* exhibit style, that is: a short historical context, a short state-of-the-art before the use of the object, the history of the object, and the consequences of its use. - New University of Lisbon, Portugal.

Approach

For this assignment we suggest either an online or an offline approach. Accompanying the options you could pursue, you find helpful tools and search suggestions:

Offline approach:
1. Start with giving your students the "How to write an academic story for the web" manual.
2. Let your students search for objects on *Inventing Europe* by either looking through the 1000+ objects page, browsing the tours or using the search function in the bar placed on top of the website.
3. Let your students write the story.

Online approach:
1. Give your students the "How to write an academic story for the web" manual.
2. Let your students read the MyEurope instruction manual carefully.
3. Let them sign up to MyEurope (www.inventingeurope.eu/myeurope/register) and click 'create new tour'.
4. On the 'create your tour' page your students select ('include in export') one story unit of the tour.

Inventing Europe: European Digital Museum for Science and Technology
Support office: Foundation for the History of Technology
www.inventingeurope.eu - inventingeurope@tue.nl - Terms and Conditions

5. Your students can search objects on *Inventing Europe* and via Europeana using the 'object collection' at the top of the page.
6. In the object collection they can click on 'Inventing Europe', after which they are redirected to the 1000+ objects page . Here they can select an image and 'drag and drop' in their object collection, which is now at the bottom of the page.
7. After clicking on 'back to MyEurope' your students return to their tour, where they can now drag and drop their object in the selected tour unit.
8. Then you students can write the story in the selected united (and add their sources).
9. Let your students export their story as pdf, and print it or e-mail it directly to you.
10. Your students can also show their object and story by clicking on the 'preview' button at the 'create your tour' page. This is nice in case they have to present their story.
11. Read the MyEurope manual for more detailed instructions on how to use MyEurope, you can find this under the Student material on the Short assignments page (http://www.inventingeurope.eu/education/short-assignments/).

Tips for use

- Let your students watch Johan Schot's lecture (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ28qOzSmtA) on the new vision and historical narrative that forms the basis of *Inventing Europe*. This video was not available at the time this assignment was created. It is very useful though.

Reading suggestions

- Take a look at the six volume book series Johan Schot and Philip Scranton ed., 'Making Europe: Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000' (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013-2016). Each *Inventing Europe* exhibition is inspired by one of these volumes and allows you to explore in-depth with your students the themes of consumers, infrastructures, governance, media, knowledge societies and Europe in a global world. Examine www.makingeurope.eu for more details and table of contents of the already published volumes.

Are you planning on using this suggestion and teach with *Inventing Europe*? Then we invite you to join our teaching community. You then keep up-to-date on activities, have ample opportunity to share your materials and experiences, and to be in touch with other teachers.

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