

# Teaching with Primary Sources Colorado

## What is Teaching with Primary Sources – Colorado?

Funded by a grant from the Library of Congress and housed at the Metropolitan State College of Denver, Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado promotes the use of primary sources in instruction across the state and at all grade levels.

We pursue our goals in the following ways:

- Offering free professional development (in-services, traditional and online workshops, special events)
- Collaborating with local educators who develop standards-based coursework to meet their needs and integrate with programs already in place
- Providing expertise and technology to produce digital or large format primary sources for use in classrooms
- Creating a network of educators to serve as mentors, ambassadors and trainers for harnessing Library of Congress materials in the classroom

### What are Primary Sources? Why use them in the classroom?

Primary sources are snippets of history that may include letters, manuscripts, diaries, journals, newspapers, speeches, photos, interviews, and others. They often come with minimal context. Working with primary sources requires students to be analytical, to examine sources thoughtfully, and to determine what else they need to know to make inferences from the material. History comes alive for students that are motivated by primary sources. Analysis of primary sources will deepen student understanding of the curriculum through developing students' memory, reason, and imagination to foster empathy for the past, perspectives on the present, and the ability to influence the future.

### Who is eligible to participate in Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado programs?

Teaching with Primary Sources – Colorado professional development programs are free to all Colorado K-12 educators, including:

- In-service and pre-service teachers
- College faculty
- Librarians
- Media specialists
- Educational support personnel.

### Is there a fee or tuition charge for Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado programs (workshops, events, etc.)?

No. Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado programs (events, workshops, etc.) are offered FREE to educators.

Those choosing to earn graduate credits for Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado workshops, however, do pay a fee (cost per credit hour) through one of three available institutions in Colorado (Adams State College, Colorado State University and the University of Colorado at Denver), but it is not a requirement.

### Why should I participate?

As a Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado participant, you join local, regional and national networks of educators committed to using Library of Congress online materials and other digital primary sources to improve learning in the classroom. As your skills grow, mentoring others in this valuable teaching method extends the Teaching with Primary Sources mission. Ultimately, your efforts in this area prepare students to succeed in our increasingly complicated and information-soaked society.

You also have the option of earning possible recertification credit and graduate credit to advance your career. For detailed information about other benefits of attending TPS workshops please visit: <http://www.mscd.edu/tps/about/faq.shtml>

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## Teaching with Primary Sources-Colorado Offers the Following Professional Development Options:

### Teaching with Primary Sources Foundations

#### Overview:

Acquire a working knowledge of the American Memory website by examining and exploring the breadth and organization of the Library of Congress digital primary source collection. Gain an understanding of the value of primary sources in instruction and create an annotated resource set to use in your classroom and share with your colleagues. Understand citation, the use of digital resources in the classroom, and how to put the power of 21st Century learning behind your teachers to meet district and state standards.

#### Key Points:

- Customizable to key content and themes for a district or organization.
- Provides basic technology instruction with instruction on the use of primary sources surrounding a theme or content area
- Can be offered in a face-to-face format or in an online format
- Courses can be delivered in several sessions or over a span of 6-8 weeks depending on the needs of the district or entity.

#### Upcoming Workshop:

Picturing America Strand (All are welcome)

Beginning January 19 - February 21 - Online

### Teaching with Primary Sources Inquiry and 21st Century Learning

#### Overview:

Discover the strategies used to create, teach, and evaluate inquiry-based learning experiences that integrate 21st century learning skills and primary sources from the Library of Congress.

#### Key points:

- Customizable to the individual needs of educators and the content they are teaching
- Explanation and mentoring in the use of ALA 21st Century Learning Standards and content
- Teacher to teacher conversation, collaboration, and reflection on the uses of inquiry in the classroom setting

#### Upcoming Workshop:

February 22 - March 28 - Online

### Teaching with Primary Sources Colloquium

#### Overview:

A one or two day learning experience partnering scholarship with practicing educators and linking instruction to 21st Century learning through inquiry and technology. Primary sources and technology will be highlighted around a key topic.

#### Key points:

- Customizable to key strands in content areas determined by the partner agency
- Provides educators with the opportunity to interact with key scholars while using 21st Century learning
- Singlestand-aloneclasswhichwillgiveeducators a broad overview of inquiry components while at the same time allowing them to use what they are learning immediately.
- Opportunities for follow-up online are provided through TPS Connect

Please contact us if you would be interesting in hosting a colloquium event at your school or district.