

Feeling Democracy: Connecting Students with Civics using primary sources and government documents

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Credit to my colleagues

Radical Science Writing: An Interdisciplinary Book Arts Approach – Visual Literacy Today. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2022, from <https://visualliteracytoday.org/radical-science-writing-an-interdisciplinary-book-arts-approach/>

Raynes, I., & Heiser, N. (2019). Cartographic Literacy Through Object-Based Learning: The Value of Primary Sources in Instruction. *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*, 15(2–3), 187–209.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15420353.2020.1739188>

Background:

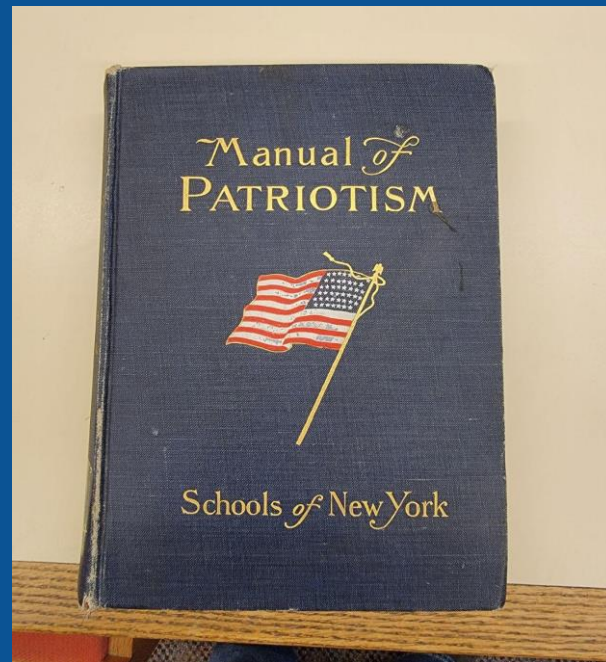
- **Affective teaching:**
 - Affective learning is concerned with how learners feel while they are learning, as well as with how learning experiences are internalized so they can guide the learner's attitudes, opinions, and behavior in the future (Miller, 2005)
- **Experiential learning**
 - Experiential learning is an engaged learning process whereby students “learn by doing” and by reflecting on the experience.
- **Critical Pedagogy:**
 - Teaching and learning as a political act

Background

- Small survey of students in library seminars at CU showed:
 - Students don't know what government information means
 - Are intimidated by government information
 - Often underestimate government sources
- Formative assessment in CU seminars shows:
 - Students like touching things
 - When students connect to an object they often wanted to know more about it
 - Students gravitate toward older items at first, but after spending time with items this bias lessens

In practice

- Picking items of interest
 - Old
 - Weird
 - Current events
- Being tangible is important
- Pictures help, but not always
- Library smell
- Context
- What next?



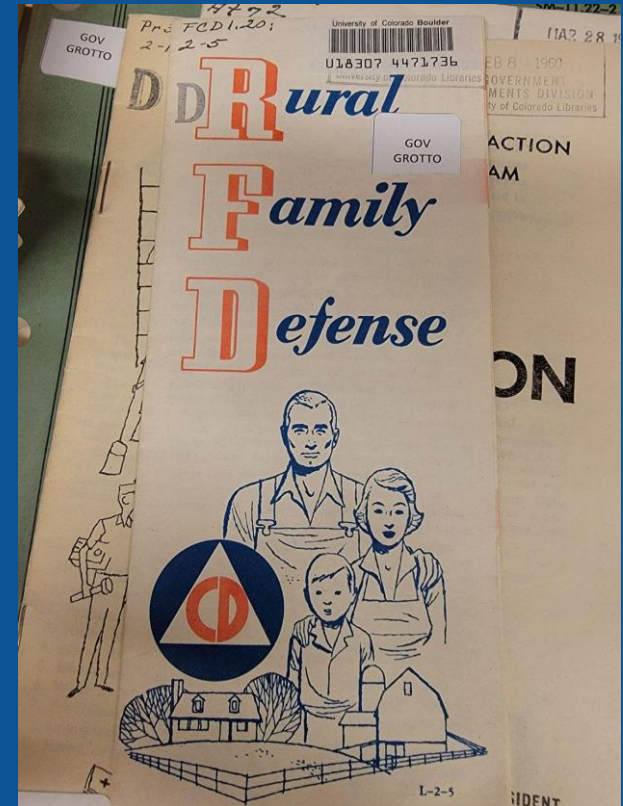
Case studies

- ENVS 3020 (upper division Environmental Studies writing class)
- Election outreach
- Alumni engagement event



ENVS 3020

- Classes of around 30 students
- Have worked with professors closely for years
- Assignment based around a grant proposal
- They visit multiple librarians

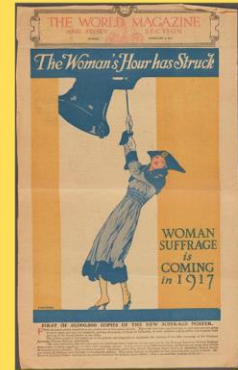


Election outreach and Campus Alumni event

- Large groups walking past table
- Students, faculty, staff, and community members
- Similar goals, slightly different approaches
- Partnered with Archives and Rare Books
- Alumni event had campus admin

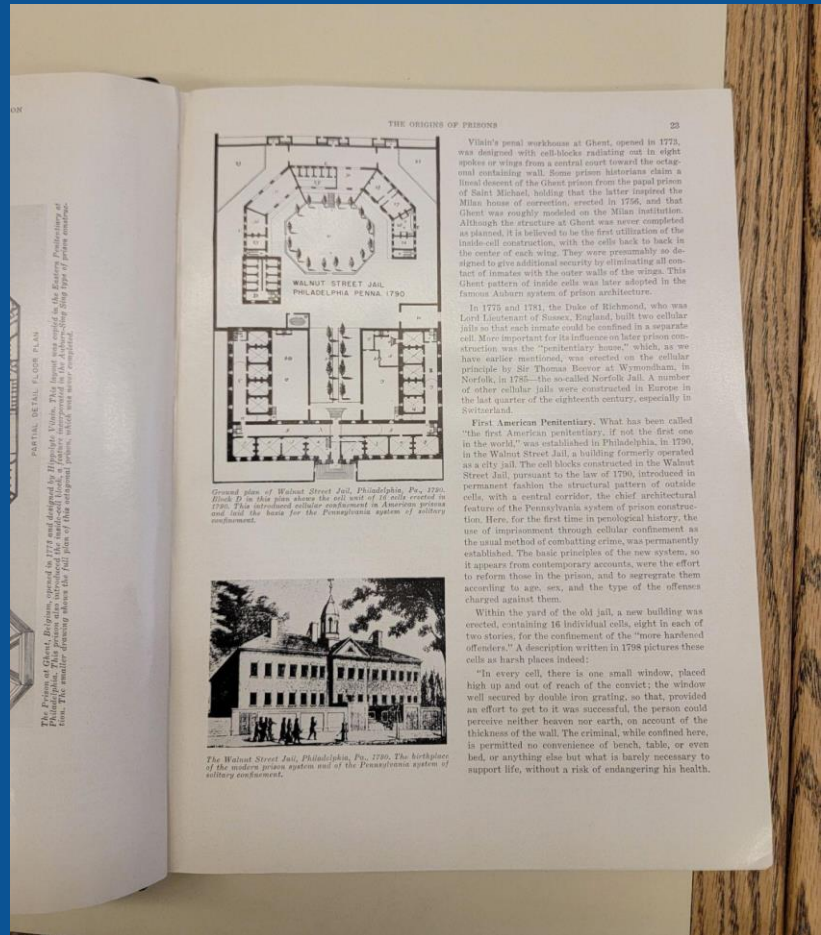
100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment Discussion Panel

**Sept 15th
4pm**



Keys

- Civics is participatory
- Acknowledge barriers
 - Both in terms of access and feasibility
- Give people time to process
- Know your audience
- Interesting items are more important than relevant items
- Pictures aren't everything



Questions and works cited

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