

Name: Hamilton Hernandez

Title: The Public Memory of the Homestead Strike: Creating a Memorial to Remember the Homestead Strike.

Subject: United States History

State: Connecticut

**Introduction:** Students will be tasked with creating a memorial intended to communicate the historical significance of the Homestead Strike to the history of the American labor movement. This lesson is intended to take place during one block period (90 minutes) or over two 45-minute lessons.

**Unit Goal:** Analyze how labor movements affected working conditions, influenced the political process, and shaped the concept of the U.S. as a land of opportunity.

**Connecticut State Standards:**

- HIST 9–12.1 Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.
- HIST 9–12.4 Analyze how historical contexts shaped and continue to shape people’s perspectives. (e.g., immigration, labor, the role of women).
- HIST 9–12.9 Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources.
- HIST 9–12.11 Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of events in the past.

**Daily Activities, adjust to fit length of class period.**

1. Show students a memorial with no label. Decide what’s appropriate, I show students the [Sandy Hook Memorial](#). Ask students what they believe was the intention of the creator of the memorial. This will be up to the instructor to facilitate the conversation. For example: “What are the “eye-catching” or important pieces of the memorial?”
2. After a few questions ask students “what event do you think the memorial represents?” Then facilitate a conversation in which you reveal the title of the memorial and the event which the memorial represents.
3. Facilitate a conversation in which students observe how the memorial represents the event that took place. If possible, include an [artist’s explanation](#) of the choices that were made in the creation of the memorial.
4. Divide students into groups.
5. Provide students with a brief overview of the events leading up to the Homestead Strike including key vocabulary terms (ex. Labor Unions, Collective Bargaining, etc.).
6. Assign each group the task of creating a memorial that represents the impact of the Homestead Strike on American labor History.

7. Instructors will need to create a curated set of sources that are at the appropriate reading level for students from the [University of Pittsburgh's library](#).
8. Students will then research the Homestead Strike event and the perspective of the participants using the sources provided.
9. Each group will then create a memorial that represents the Homestead Strike and its impact on American labor history.

#### **Informal Assessment:**

1. Each group will submit the sketch of their proposed memorial which can then be hung in the classroom or displayed using the classroom projector, digital screen, etc...
2. The class will then vote for which memorial best represents the historical impact of the Homestead Strike on American labor history.
3. If possible, use the school or public library's 3-D printer to print the memorial that was selected by the class and display it in class.

#### **Tech Needs:**

1. Students will need at least one school-provided computer per group so that they can access the archive materials.
2. A 3-D printer will be needed to print the selected memorial.

#### **Materials Needed to Complete the Unit:**

1. A memorial example selected by instructor.
2. School provided internet-connected devices.

#### **Sources:**

Baldwin, Eric. "Winning Design Chosen for Sandy Hook Memorial." ArchDaily, ArchDaily, 13 Aug. 2018, <https://www.archdaily.com/900124/winning-design-chosen-for-sandy-hook-memorial>.

Blanco, Amanda. "After Years of Planning, 'the Clearing' Is a Memorial That Will Honor the 26 Victims Who Died at Sandy Hook Elementary School." *Hartford Courant*, 14 Dec. 2019, <https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-connecticut-sh-memorial-20191214-gxfgdkbbyza6xbh7iammnpxbfu-story.html>.

"Resources on the 1892 Homestead Steel Strike @ Pitt Archives: Strike Information." Guides, <https://pitt.libguides.com/homestead>.