Build a Digital Timeline

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Digital Scholarship Retreat
Learning Outcomes

• State the benefits of a timeline in presenting a narrative.
• Describe ways in which a timeline-based assignment can address learning goals.
• Restate a narrative through a storyboarding process for timeline creation.
• Build a digital timeline as a group.
Why a Timeline?

- Analyze non-linear relationships
- Establish historical context
- Focus on details
- Show scholarship as a conversation
- Show change or continuity over time

Source: “Digital Timelines.” Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching.
Scholarship as a Conversation

“Ideas are formulated, debated, and weighed against one another over extended periods of time.... a given issue may be characterized by several competing perspectives as part of an ongoing conversation in which information users and creators come together and negotiate meaning.”

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education
Timeline JS

- Open-source
- The most popular tool created by Northwestern University’s Knight Lab
- Works with Google Sheets
Example Timeline

A Brief Introduction to Animal Liberation and Veganism

Google Sheet
Make a Timeline

• Identify your story.
• Storyboard it.
• Get the TimelineJS Google Sheet template.
• Add content to the spreadsheet.
• Publish to the web and get a Shareable URL.
• Copy/paste the URL into the Knight Lab timeline generator.
• Get a Share Link or Embed Code.

Full Instructions at Make a Timeline (Knight Lab)
Let’s Build!

Vincent Van Gogh: Selected Scholarship and Paintings

- Google Sheet Template
- Source Text

- VVG Timeline
Innovative Uses of Timelines

How might you incorporate a timeline-based assignment into your coursework?