

1. Making History: Engaging the public with insights into the history of London in the UCL Department of History through digital outputs

Working in a small team, first- year students on the Making History module produce a presentation, in person and using digital media, explaining the historical significance of an object or place. They are challenged to understand the object or place, contextualise it and tell its story. Why was it created? How has it been used? Has its meaning changed? Making History encourages students to be self- reflective about History as a discipline and as a practice. New media such as electronic forms of communication, television, films and websites are raising new questions about historical methodologies and the politics of the preservation of historical sources. In response to this, students are asked to focus on historical process and method as much as on producing an historical product. How as a group they arrive at their final website and presentation is as important as what they ultimately conclude in response to their chosen research question.

Each website and each final presentation is awarded a single assessment mark, which is shared by each member of the group. Accordingly, each member of the group assumes equal responsibility for ensuring that the project is completed on time and to a high standard. Learning to work effectively as a group is one of the key skills Making History is designed to develop. Students also learn to apply assessment criteria fairly to the work of others on this module, as part of the assessment of the group presentations.

The presentations are aimed at an intelligent, but non- specialist, public audience and involve two or three digital outputs. Whatever students produce should take no longer than 20 minutes to read, listen to or view, but the forms they can use are varied. Examples of digital outputs include a website providing information in an interactive way, a podcast, a video or an interactive map, diagram, or image. Assessment criteria include successfully communicating historical ideas and concepts including, where appropriate and helpful, historiography, to a general audience.

Vignette submitted by Dr Adam Smith, Senior Lecturer in the UCL Department of History.