

Life before Photoshop: Erased from the Past

Łukasz Migniewicz

Introduction for the teacher

This lesson script is intended for students aged 14 years old and above. The subject matter discussed allows for its use in interdisciplinary classes in such subjects as history, culture, native language, media education as well as social sciences.

The material has been divided into three parts: the lesson scenario, a set of source materials and a worksheet with exercises to be done during the class, in a group or individually. Particular elements of the script can be modified to adjust them to the target audience.

Instructions

The script contains seven pieces of source material and a worksheet with exercises. The suggested lesson structure can be modified, along with the sources and exercises. Internet access would be useful during the lessons as well as allowing the students to use telecommunication devices with internet access (smartphones, tablets, etc.).

Operational goals

The student is able to:

- explain the meaning of the terms Great Terror (Great Purge), October Revolution, NKVD,
- define the usefulness of various sources (academic essays, press articles and photographs) for analysing the theme of history falsification, particularly in the context of new methods of manipulation – photograph alteration,
- analyse source texts and photographs, indicating the cause-and-effect links between them and historical events,

- analyse source texts and pictures, indicating links between them and particular historical events,
- characterize propaganda activities in the USSR related to photograph retouching and rewriting history,
- develop an independent argument and contribute to debate.

Teaching methods

- teaching discussion,
- group work,
- brainstorm,
- analysis of source material, texts and illustrations,
- Phillips 66 method,¹
- metaplan,²
- independent work with a set of exercises.

Teaching aids

- sets of exercises and source material available on the [Hi-story lessons](#) platform,
- board/flipcharts, felt pen/chalk,
- large paper sheets/Bristol board sheets,
- a computer with internet access and a projector/multimedia board.

Before the lesson

Ask the students to read the essay titled '[Historical Fallacies in Communist Propaganda](#)'.

¹ You can learn more about this method here: <https://www.theedadvocate.org/edupedia/content/what-is-phillips-66-brainstorming/> or here <https://studylib.net/doc/5848394/phillips-66> [accessed 27 April 2021].

² One of the activation method used during classes; it involves poster making by the discussion/debate participants. The poster represents a graphic summary of the debate (based on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metaplan> [accessed 14 December 2020]).