

## Digital Humanities Tools for the History Classroom\*

\*free, relatively easy to use, and with no or minimal account creation

### **Text analysis**

**What's it good for?** Text analysis tools provide students with new lenses with which to read and parse primary sources, allowing them to engage with different layers of meaning, compare texts and corpora to each other, and identify patterns.

#### **Free and accessible tools:**

- *Voyant*, <https://voyant-tools.org/>: identify and analyze themes, topics, and patterns internal to a text or corpus
- *Google NGram Viewer*, <https://books.google.com/ngrams>: track use and reception of ideas or works over time

### **Digital storytelling**

**What's it good for?** Digital storytelling tools help students develop argumentation, multimodal writing, and evidence-based narrative.

#### **Free and accessible tools:**

- *Twine*, <https://twinery.org/2/#!/welcome>: create narrative games (great for thinking about historical contingencies)
- *Juncture*, <https://juncture-digital.org/>: illustrate written essays with linked multimedia content like images and maps
- *TimelineJS*, <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>: create historical narratives in the form of timelines with linked multimedia content

### **Annotation**

**What's it good for?** Like “analog” annotation assignments, digital annotation helps students grasp the direct links between evidence and argument and distinguish between observations and inferences.

#### **Free and accessible tools:**

- *Perusall*, <https://perusall.com/>: annotate uploaded or imported sources (in a variety of formats) and respond to other students' annotations
- *Hypothes.is*, <https://web.hypothes.is/>: annotate web content and respond to group members' annotations

### **Mapping and Data Visualization**

**What's it good for?** While mapping and data visualization require substantially more scaffolding than some tools on this list, the payoffs are significant. Introducing students to historical data sets gives them crucial insights into just how messy data is, even when it's presented in a neat and attractive graph.

#### **Free and accessible tools:**

- *Social Explorer*, <https://www.socialexplorer.com/>: create visualizations with provided data sets pulled from the US census, election results, and other historical data sets
  - (NB: Although they only advertise the paid plans, you can create a free basic plan that provides plenty of functionality.)
- *Tableau Public*, <https://public.tableau.com/en-us/s/>: create visualizations with your own data sets