American Revolution Project Guidelines 2025

The AmRev! American Revolution project is modeled after the 5th grade CapCon! event.

While 5th graders choose their own topics to research, and 4th graders will all research the same topic, the American Revolution, the final products will be similar. The guidelines below are based on projects 4th graders have already done as well as requirements aligned with the 5th grade Capstone project.

This 4th grade project is a culminating activity for the year as well as an initial experience with the Capstone process students will embark on in 5th grade.

Process

- In your Drive, go into your **Social Studies** folder:
  - Make a folder called **American Revolution**
  - Inside of the *American Revolution* folder make a another folder called **American Revolution Media**
- Research
- Gather project resources
  - Sources
  - Media
    - Pictures you take
    - Videos you record
    - If using Google…
      - Tools -> Usage rights -> Creative Commons
    - Save in a folder in Drive as individual media files
      - .jpg, .jpeg, .png for images
      - .mp4, .m4a. .webm for video
- Write a rough narrative
- Refine narrative into a script
- Refine script to meet timing requirements
- Create rough draft of presentation/movie
- Edit and revise visuals
  - Use WeVideo stock video/images
  - Use Adobe Creative Cloud stock media
  - Use Google Slides - Insert-> Image -> Search the web

Project Creation:

1 picture or 6 word Rule

Any visual, be it a presentation or movie, should follow the 1 picture or 6 word rule. This means you don't crowd the screen with too much information.

- **Use only 1 picture and no words**
  - This allows the audience to focus on the image while you speak to what they are looking at.
  - By only having 1 image the audience gives 100% visual attention to your image and 100% listening attention to your talk/narration
- **Use 6 words, or less, and no image**
  - This allows the audience to focus on the written statement while you speak to re-inforce, and expand on, the point of that brief statement.
  - They can be keywords, a statement, or a sentence, but they do not have to be a full sentence.
  - They are 6 words, or less, to reinforce the point you are driving at
  - By only having 6 words the audience gives 100% visual attention to your words and 100% listening attention to your talk/narration
- **Use 6 words and 1 imag**e
  - Acceptable but use sparingly
  - If you use both 6 words (or less) and 1 image, the audience now gives less attention to each
  - If you use both with narration you are asking your audience to split their attention 3 ways - reading, looking, listening

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Consistency is Key

Create with purpose - make choices to support the value of your content
- Could vs Should
- Want vs Need

No rainbows, unicorns, or fireworks

- Fonts
  - Simple, clean, font
  - Same font throughout
  - No more than 3 fonts total
    - Title

- - - ■ Text
      - ■ Caption
    - ○ Easy to read
    - ○ Black text on white background
    - ○ White text on black background
- ● Images
  - ○ Always in the same place
  - ○ Don't cover them with text
  - ○ Crop out the unnecessary
- ● Animations
  - ○ In Google Slides? Nope, none
  - ○ What about a movie?
    - ■ WeVideo and Adobe
      - ● Ken Burns effect - only if it adds value

Final Products

Ignite Talk
- ● 8 slides
- ● 1 image or 6 word rule
- ● auto advance every 15 seconds
- ● 2 minutes total
- ● consistency is key

TED Talk
- ● 3-4 minutes
- ● At least 3 slides
  - ○ Title slide with topic and first name only
  - ○ At least 1 content slide
  - ○ Closing slide with "for more information check out my blog…"
- ● 1 image or 6 word rule
- ● Consistency is key

Movie
- ● 3-4 minutes
- ● 2 seconds or black at the start and end
  - ○ you need to add it in
- ● 2-6 seconds per image
- ● 1 image or 6 word rule

- Audio
  - Music no higher than 20%
  - Narration 100%
- Consistency is key

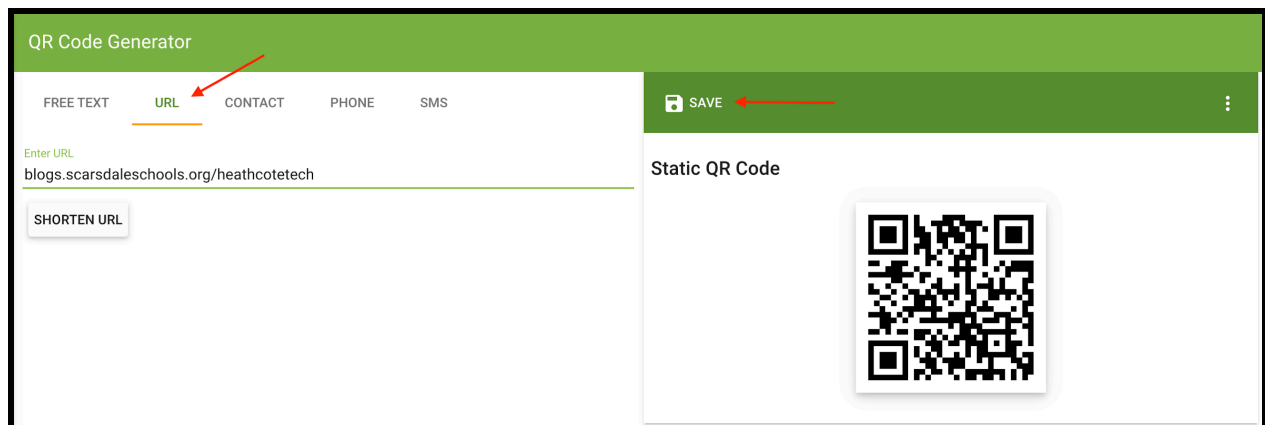WeVideo or Adobe Creative Cloud Express. The same rules apply to either of these formats

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Final Slide/Image

Regardless of Ignite, TED, WeVideo, Adobe, etc…

- A summary of key points or ideas
- A call to action for the audience
  - Go to a museum!
  - Go see a historic site!
  - Inspire them to go do what you just taught them, or to learn more for themselves
- Direct them to your writing
  - *"For more information check out my blog at blogs.scarsdaleschools.org/username/category/americanrevolution"*

If you want to add a QR code use: https://www.the-qrcode-generator.com/
No need to log in, just paste the address to your blog in the "URL" field

Save the Image as a PNG file, it will save to your Downloads folder, then add it to your project

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Final Submission

All files must be named according to this format:

<Class> *<First Name><Last Initial>* - <AmericanRevolution> - <Project Topic>

So, if I was creating an American Revolution project on the causes, my file would be named:
4C MrC - AmericanRevolution - Causes

John Smith, a 4th grader in Mr. Casal's class, doing a project on the Boston Tea Party would be:
4C JohnS - AmericanRevolution - Boston Tea Party

Folders have been created and shared with students for submitting final projects
- [4Ra AmRev Final Projects 2025](#)
- [4Ri AmRev Final Projects](#)

Once you have submitted your video to that folder, please email Mr. Casal to let him know so he can upload it to the YouTube playlist.