

Interactive Timeline

with Google Spreadsheets and TimelineJS

Creating an interactive timeline can provide perspective on how a topic has evolved, and how events occurred along the way. You can use a timeline to document an **historic event**, follow the **development of an individual person or a population**, or identify important stages in the **growth of a product or theory**. Although timelines are date-dependent, a timeline can be used to portray a collection of ideas explaining or identifying different kinds of behavior, uses of **color or design in objects**, or other concepts. Timeline Example: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/ccre-timeline>.

Having students create a timeline, either on their own or as a collaborative group project, is an active learning activity that combines skills in research, critical thinking, and preparing a presentation or participating.

Timeline JS has created a Google spreadsheet template to help you organize your timeline events. The site also provides an embed generator that creates the code you need to paste into your Blackboard course or other website for viewing. Create and publish your timeline in a quick four-step process.

One of the great features of using the Timeline JS process is the variety of online media you can include in your story: Twitter, Flickr, Google Maps, YouTube, Vimeo, Wikipedia, Soundcloud, as examples. Plus you can add any URL to a website. You can add your own content and use some basic HTML coding for formatting.

For more information and instructions visit the Timeline JS website: <http://timeline.verite.co/>.

STEP 1

Go to Timeline JS. Download the template and enter your events in a Google spreadsheet. Column headers are Start Date, End Date, Headline, Text, Media (URL for media) Media Credit, Media Caption, and Media Thumbnail.

Start Date	End Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
10/1/2011 0:00:00		Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool	http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwies/6115058148/	Zach Wies		
11/1/2011 0:00:00	11/1/2011 0:00:00	YouTube — Edwin Land on BBC		http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DjCv1nR2			
11/16/2011 0:00:00	11/17/2011 0:00:00	SoundCloud — Lotus Flower - SBTRKT RMX		http://www.soundcloud.com/radioshead/radioshead-lotus-flower-sbtrkt-rmx	Radio		

STEP 2

Publish your spreadsheet to the web. In your spreadsheet go to File -> Publish to the web ->Start Publishing ->Copy the URL that is given.

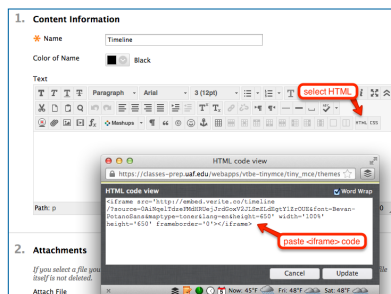
STEP 3

Go to Timeline JS. Enter your spreadsheet URL into the embed code generator. Copy the generated code.

STEP 4

Blackboard

- Open a new content area. Click on the HTML editor icon in the menu bar. Paste the <iframe> code into the text box. Click save.



WordPress

- Open a new blog post or page. Click on the text editor tab in the menu bar. Paste the <iframe> code in the text box. Click save.

