

ROOTS Project Course Summary 2013-2014

- Course Title:** Making Connections Through ROOTS
- Location:** The ROOTS Project will be held at the Burlington Public Library.
- Time:** The classes will be held weekly during the school calendar year on Thursdays, 12:30pm – 1:20pm. Special class sessions requiring a longer class period will also be arranged for a few of the topics requiring more research follow-up or lecture time. Two field trips will be conducted during the course requiring flexible class time (Burlington Cemetery visit) or the entire school day to participate in the field trip (National Archives in Seattle and Seattle Public Library).
- Students:** 11th grade students of Burlington-Edison North High School
- Teacher:** Linda Larrabee
- Facilitators:**
- Genealogists from the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society and from surrounding communities of Skagit and Whatcom Counties area. The class facilitator(s) will vary each week depending on the topic being presented.
 - Genealogist volunteers, aka “genealogists mentors”, will serve as co-researchers with the students.
 - The Burlington Public Library reference librarian, Karen Prasse and the 11th grade teacher Linda Larrabee will facilitate lessons and lead some of the class activities.
- Class Dates:** October 17, 2013 to March 27, 2014
- Purpose:** The purpose of the ROOTS Project is for 11th grade students to learn basic research skills and apply those skills by researching their family history.
- Methodology:** Research Methods – The teen and genealogists research teams will use a balanced mix of traditional resources along with digital technology during the course. Books, databases, Internet resources, maps, newspapers, and microforms will be incorporated into the research process.
- Students will research, retrieve, and document records and store these records in paper copy form in a research binder and in Legacy Deluxe genealogy software (data to be stored on USB drives). Students will be given forms, research plans, research logs and activity logs to record their research findings.

ROOTS Project Course Summary continued:

Learning

Objectives:

At the conclusion of ROOTS the students will be better able to:

- Use research practices and methods to research other subjects.
- Identify and understand the differences between primary and secondary sources.
- Assess the value of using non-digital and/or non-internet resources in research.
- Continue researching their family history using best practices.
- Properly cite sources of their research.
- Use critical thinking skills.
- Evaluate sources of information for accuracy and reliability
- And, improved their Information Literacy by exploring library resources.

Course

Competencies:

At the conclusion of the ROOTS project students will know how to:

- Define a research problem and create a research plan;
- Gather research data online and through library resources;
- Evaluate the accuracy, reliability and credibility of sources;
- Properly cite sources;
- Produce a research summary;
- Conduct an effective oral interview and transcribe notes;
- Write an autobiography, biography, ancestor profile/timeline;
- Prepare for a research trip to archives or other repositories;
- Properly handle archival materials;
- Work effectively as an equal contributor on a research team.

Textbook:

Holik, Jennifer, *Branching Out: Genealogy for High School Students Lesson 1-30*, copyright 2012, publisher, Generations, Woodridge, IL.

Instruction

Methods:

Typically, a 25 minute lecture/presentation by guest genealogist facilitator followed by either discussion, hands-on activity, webinars, computer database researching, exploring the resources in the Burlington Library (books, microfilm, atlases, etc.), forms/handouts to complete, homework assignments and living histories to provide historical context to the students' research and a field trip to the National Archives Records Administration and the Seattle Public Library.

Equipment:

Laptop computers provided by BPL per research team, USB drives, digital voice recorders for oral history interviewing, digital camera, document scanner, databases, Legacy software 7.5 Deluxe, library materials such as atlases, books, city directories, e-books, DVDs, etc. The BPL conference room will be the classroom setting for the majority of the class sessions but the students will have the flexibility to explore library resources as needed for class assignments.