

# Our Veterans; Their Stories

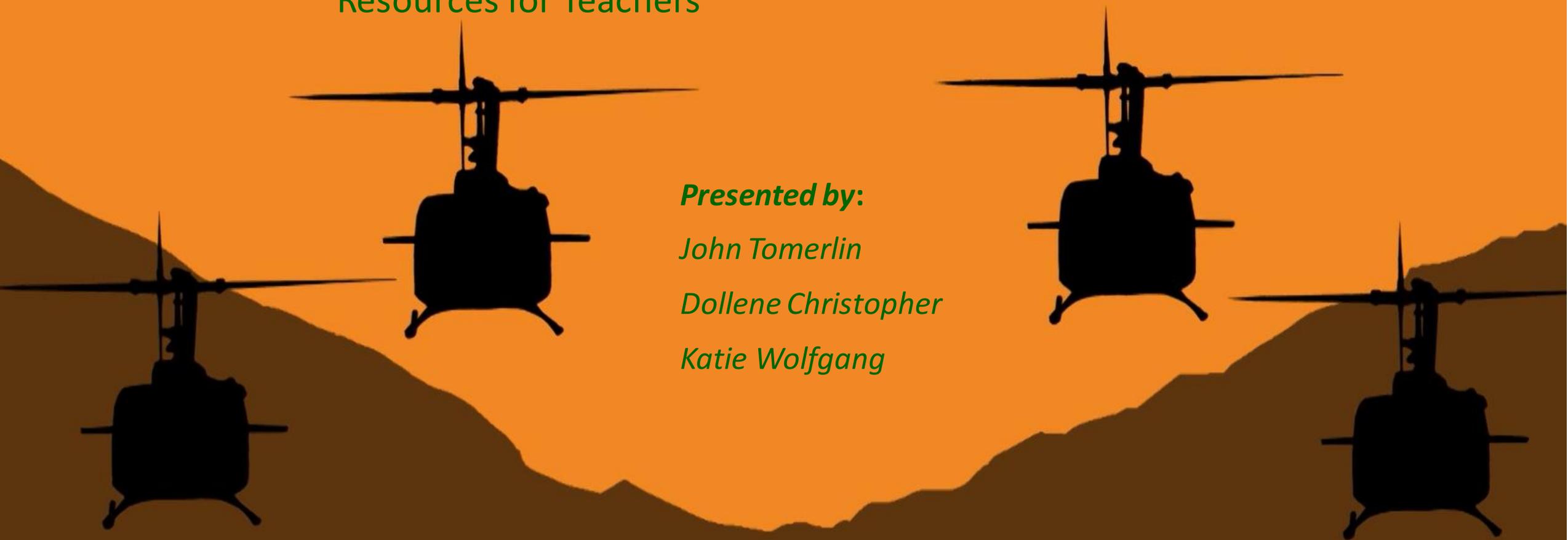
Cattaraugus County Historical Society:  
Resources for Teachers

*Presented by:*

*John Tomerlin*

*Dollene Christopher*

*Katie Wolfgang*



# Welcome

**Exploring community and history using veteran narratives:**

*In collaboration with Cattaraugus County Museum and Research Center*

***John Tomerlin:*** vision and contribution



***Katie Wolfgang:*** background and experience



***Dollene Christopher:*** background and experience



Vietnam: What a Vet Wants You to Know



Four Part Film Series

April 8th 7:00 P.M.

Hollywood Theatre



Gowanda, New York

# Our Veterans; Their Stories

Educational series – short videos/ Vietnam

All local narratives available on YouTube – labeled chapters

Presented to communities in WNY & Education Consortium

Adapting additional educational series; 9/11 & War on Terror

- Use veteran's stories to increase historical thinking and analysis, while increasing student engagement
- A 3-step process implementing literacy will guide the creation of effective lesson development using veteran narratives, with a focus on 21st century skills.
- Apply learning by developing a lesson that effectively incorporates veteran narratives.

The word "OBJECTIVES" is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters. Each letter is filled with a different color: O (blue), B (pink), J (orange), E (green), C (orange), T (purple), I (blue), V (pink), E (orange), S (blue). A vertical blue bar with the word "Objectives" written in white is positioned between the 'C' and 'T'.



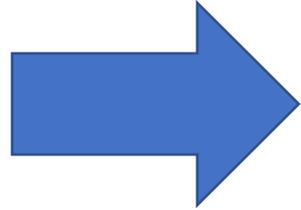
**Literacy  
skills**

Why  
Literacy?

# Literacy is more than **reading** and **writing**; it's preparation for the world beyond the classroom.

## Developing literacy through Curriculum:

- > students understand
- > interpret
- > apply
- > make connections
- > draw conclusions
- > justify
- > critique
- > create new ideas

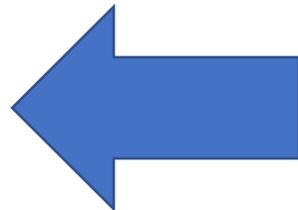


## Literacy skills leads to the development of **Social Studies practices**

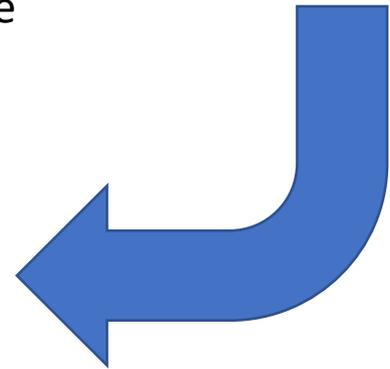
- > chronological reasoning
- > geographic reasoning
- > causation
- > comparison
- > contextualization
- > gathering, using and interpreting evidence

## Result: Development of **21st Century Skills**

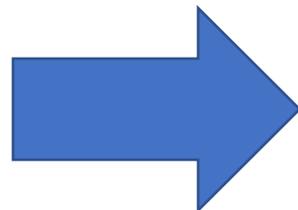
- > critical thinking
- > reasoning
- > collaboration
- > communication
- > creativity
- > problem solving



**Research Based Instructional Strategies** = Key to effectively implementing literacy for all learners



**Narratives**



# Historic Path of Cattaraugus County

Our History People Places Themes Events Resources Educators

## Video Education Series: The Vietnam War

Vietnam, "What a Vet Wants You to Know" is a four part series featuring veterans from Cattaraugus County who share their experiences in four six minute films.

### The Four Videos & Lessons

#### The Vietnam War: Chapter 1: Called to Serve

This video is about the military draft and trying to understand the Vietnam War.

#### The Vietnam War: Chapter 2: In Country

This video is about what a veteran wants you to know about living in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

#### The Vietnam War: Chapter 3: Coming Home

This video is about how the Vietnam Veterans had in comparison to the veterans of other wars.

#### The Vietnam War: Chapter 4: Looking Back

This video is about how the Vietnam Veterans feel about various aspects of the Vietnam War.

### About this Project

Our goal for this project is to give students the opportunity to hear what veterans who grew up where they grew up to hear a local perspective of the Vietnam conflict, allowing them to gain an understanding of the lasting impact war can have on individuals.

This project was specifically designed to be used in history classes and was developed with the assistance of two local teachers, Katar Wolfgang from Olean City School District and Dolores Christopher from Allegany/Lewis/Steuben Central School District.

### More Videos

Watch other videos of veterans of the Vietnam War.

Watch more Videos of veterans telling their stories on our Videos about Veterans

### Teachers

Teaching the Vietnam War - PBS Learning Media

Education Section of Historic Path

Learn more about the "Our Veterans, Their Stories" Project



youtube.com/@cattarauguscountymuseum7634/videos

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Summer at the Stone House: Allen Hopkins, "Outlaws and Rebels" (Music) 53 views • 5 months ago 1:27:50

# A Call to Action: Video 1 Vietnam Series

## Narratives:

- Emotional connection leads to long term learning
- Connection to your community & real life
- SS practices enforced

## Pre-Reading:

- ✓ **Activating previous knowledge:** *point of view/narrative, Open ended and higher order questions, exploring content at a deeper level and engaging with the content*

## Reading:

- ✓ **Analyzing 'text' in 4 stations:** *draw conclusions from evidence, transfer strategies (motivation to learn, emotional connection), open ended, higher order questions, exploring material and relationships (cause & effect/ Agent Orange), non-linguistic representations, movement for engagement*

## Writing:

- ✓ **Application/Evaluation:** *cooperative learning, drawing conclusions and making judgments by applying new knowledge, summarizing lesson by answering the 'essential question', classroom discussions*

# Lessons- Vietnam Veteran Narratives

-> *Scaffold learning*

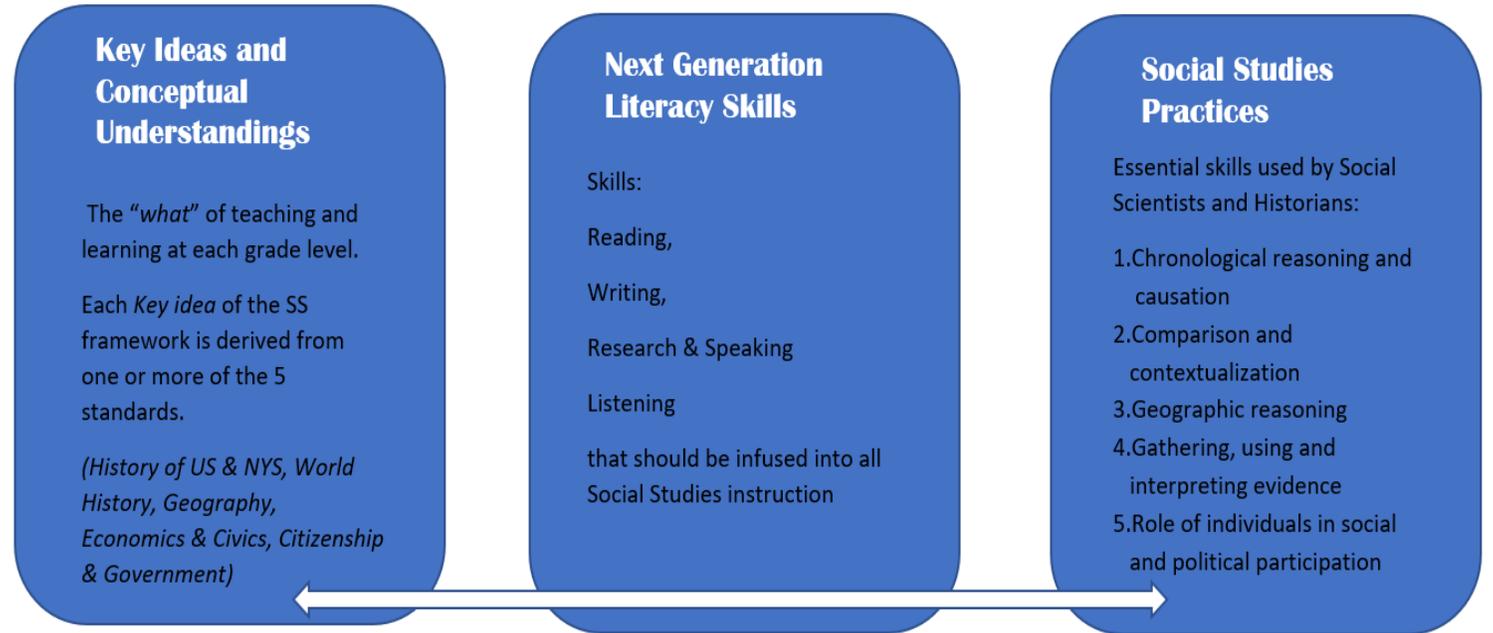
- Lessons arranged into manageable parts
- Connections to real life
- Use of visuals

-> *Requirements under the Framework*

-> *Research based instructional strategies*

-> *Universal Design for Learning*

## Social Studies Framework



### [Link – Research Based Instructional Strategies](#)

Resource provided at this link was provided with permission of the Clearview Local Schools in Lorain, OH

### [Link – Researched Based Instructional Strategies and effect sizes](#)

Pages 8 and 9

### [Link – Universal Design for Learning](#)

Based in neuroscience research



It's your  
turn....



<https://www.gpb.org/blogs/education-matters/2015/06/19/how-effectively-collaborate-fellow-educators>

## **Collaboration:**

*View short veteran video*

*Create a lesson aligned to the Social Studies*

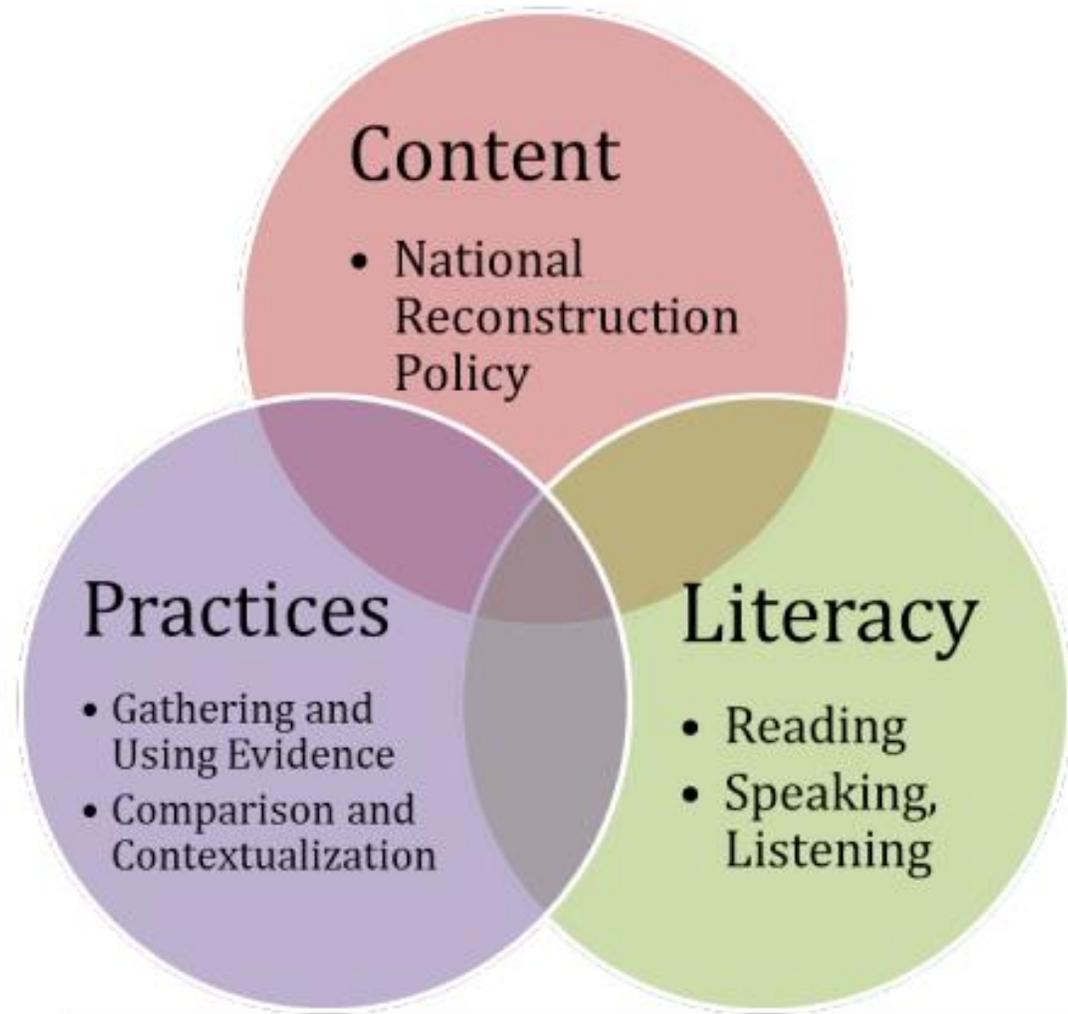
*Framework, using Researched Instructional Strategies within the three-step process.*

## **Goal:**

*Teachers leave with ideas that can immediately be used in the classroom*

*&*

*Find and use our veteran resources*



# Create your own lesson with a veteran's story

1. **Pre-Reading**: *access previous knowledge*

**Decide the “what” you are teaching / learning**

*(Key ideas and conceptual understandings)*

2. **Reading**: *analysis; researched based strategies to break down and understand complexities of the text (video)*

**Focus on SS practices**

3. **Writing**: *application of your learning; produce something new*

*Korea – Phil Smith Video*





Share your ideas!

# Our Hope ....

1

That the power of Narratives, specifically the unique perspective veteran stories have to offer to student learning is fully recognized

2

That the three-step process for lesson development is seen as a simple way to incorporate all requirements and increase student learning

3

The connection between researched based instructional strategies, Social Studies practices, Universal Design for Learning and higher student achievement through the development of 21st century skills is clear and supported

Questions, Comments, Concerns....

