KnightLab Timeline

KnightLab Timeline is a user-friendly web browser tool that allows people to create interactive timelines. Each marker on the timeline can present text, images, videos, and soundbites. The goal is to tell a story with these markers, guiding your audience through a temporal narrative.

KnightLab Timeline Key Links
- KnightLab Timeline site: http://timeline.knightlab.com/
- KnightLab support forum: https://knightlab.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/201567526-TimelineJS
- Tutorial video: https://vimeo.com/143407878
- Link to the copy of the template spreadsheet for Timeline: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pHBvXN7nmGkiG8uQSUB82eNlnL8xHu6kydzH_-eguHQ/copy (follow the prompt to make a copy)
- Link to the example spreadsheet (from the Timeline website): https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1xuY4upIooEeszZ_lCmeNx24eSFWe0rHe9ZdqH2xqVNk/pubhtml
- Link to an example spreadsheet that utilizes various features: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1htSnwHjQP-hqMyz3551taKjjZ2nXo1gHyeY0oWNXSCw/edit#gid=0

Components of an effective Timeline:
- Strong, **coherent content.**
- A **clear series of events and periods** (pick stories with an overt chronological narrative!)
- An overarching **theme** relating the events to one other.
- **Media elements** that help illustrate and support the narrative.

Questions to Consider
- What **story** am I trying to tell? What is the **message** I want to convey?
- What are the **main events**, **processes**, **points**, and **periods** in time that I want to highlight?
- Who is my **audience**?
  - How can I most effectively write for this audience?
  - What kinds of information does that audience need?
- How can I best **tell this story**?
  - What kinds of **media** will I need? (photographs, text, maps, videos, etc.)

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- ○ Which items will require additional detail or **context**?
- ○ How can I integrate a **balance** of text, images, and other media forms?

Timeline Examples
- Whitney Houston 1963-2012: Telling the life of Whitney Houston through key dates and events.
- The decline of IRS Nonprofit regulation: Following the relationship between the IRS and other political and economic entities (the timeline is embedded in the website; scroll down to find it).
- Revolutionary User Interfaces: Tracing the development of computers and their increased accessibility, showing the influences of various people and agencies.

Design customization
- You can override the existing Timeline theme (font size, font-style etc.) by following the instructions here: Overriding Timeline Style.
- You can pick codes for HTML colors here (copy-paste the number and the pound sign).