



PPUA 5390: Special Topics
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Knight Lab Timeline

KnightLab Timeline Info

- 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>
- Link to the official example spreadsheet (from the Timeline website):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1xuY4upl0oEeszZ_lCmeNx24eSFWe0rHe9ZdqH2xqVNk/pubhtml
- Link to an example spreadsheet that utilizes various features:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SOskelXtiJuFnKbYvl2bRbBSOYdHD3Ogrzs1xejIn4/edit?usp=sharing>

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.

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.)
 - 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
- Revolutionary User Interfaces: Tracing the development of computers and their increased accessibility, showing the influences of various people and agencies
- 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)
- [The Emergence of Facebook in-class example.](#)

HTML Color Codes

- [Click here to explore HTML color codes. Hint: copy-paste the number AND the pound sign.](#)

Overriding Timeline Styles

- For the more tech-savvy creators of Timeline, you can override the existing Timeline theme (font size, font-style etc.) by following the instructions here: [Overriding Timeline Style.](#)