

TIMELY TIPS

Design

Using Mods for Your Portrait Pages

OBJECTIVE

Students will design a mod package that enhances the portrait section by adding storytelling, thematic visuals and creative layouts.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Examples of Portrait Pages from the [President's Collection](#) or sample yearbooks
- Paper
- Markers or colored pencils
- [Jim's List of 100 Mod Ideas](#)

PART 1

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Show 2-3 examples of portrait pages. Include one without mods, and one that showcases additional coverage through mods. Ask:

- What makes the second example more engaging?
- How can we make our portrait pages tell more stories?

PART 2

TEACH (10-15 MINUTES)

Explain the purpose of mods: to expand coverage and theme through smaller, visually-interesting packages of information. Review [Jim's list of 100 mod ideas](#) to pinpoint good portrait mods such as mini profiles, photo collages, word clouds, timelines, polls, etc.

PART 3

ACTIVITY (25-30 MINUTES)

Step 1: Divide students into small groups of 2-4.

Step 2: Assign or let each group choose a mod concept to design.

Step 3: Each group sketches or digitally designs their mod layout, writes 1-3 sentences of copy or collects interviews and decides where their mod would appear (bottom of the page, sidebar, between rows of portraits, etc.). Groups should consider what visual theme elements or verbal theme elements can be added to the mod package.

Step 5: Groups present their mod designs to the class for feedback on coverage, theme and interest.

PART 4

REFLECTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Class discussion:

- What makes a mod work well with portraits?
- Which of today's ideas could we actually include in our yearbook?

Optionally, vote on 1-2 mods to develop further for real inclusion.