

# Narrative Questions

## **1. Project/Program - What do you hope to accomplish with this project? What are the needs and goals?**

“Presenting the Humanities Over Distance Education” seeks to bring together the Humanity scholars as they share programs of history, heritage, creative writing, storytelling, music and song with students and teachers in central Nebraska.

The goals of the project are:

1. To increase understanding of distance education system and how it will enable speakers and participants to interact as part of a Humanities presentation.
2. To develop a web based enrichment plan to support the Humanities scholars' presentations.
3. To present a series of Humanities programs to students in grades 4-12.
4. To share the outcomes of the "Presenting Humanities Over Distance Education" program with other teachers and scholars.
5. To support Tri-Valley Distance Education Consortium (TVDEC) member schools as they plan to include Humanities Scholar programs in their 2003-04 school curricular plans.

## **2. Project Activities - what will take place? (See Plan of Operation)**

Activities include:

1. 'Presenting the Humanities Over Distance Education' workshop will be provided to scholars to support the transition from a regular presentation model to a distance education setting.
2. TVDEC director will work with Humanities scholars to develop the three part enrichment lesson - pre, tele, and post lesson. The TVDEC director will be responsible for creating the web page and informing schools of these programs.
3. TVDEC director will promote, enroll, and schedule Humanities presentations.
4. Participating schools will share their experiences at local, regional, and state meetings and conferences. (ie: Nebraska Distance Learning Association Conference). NHC will look to share this program with other Humanities presenters.
5. School representatives will evaluate outcomes of Humanities program and develop a program needs and financial plan for such programs for 2003-04.

## **3. Humanities Content - How do you define this as an humanities program? What discussion of humanities content is planned? Identify the specific humanities disciplines, ideas, and themes on which this project is based. (See attached Scholar/Specialist Participation Sheets)**

In the Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau catalog, it states: “These programs, held in every corner of our state, enrich our children and adults with the knowledge and values they need to become enlightened citizens of the 21st century.”

The intent of “Presenting the Humanities Over Distance Education” project is to maintain the integrity of each speaker’s presentation as defined in the catalog with the exception that the speaker will not be on location at the participating sites. While most would agree that being face-to-face provides the optimum experience, being able to enrich many children with this knowledge and values will not be limited because of distance and finances.

Four scholars have been agreed to participate in this project. The scholars and their presentation title include:

- Pippa White - 'The Story of the Orphan Train'
- Thomas King - 'General U.S. Grant'
- William Kloefkorn - 'A Poet's Perception'
- Mathew 'Sitting Bear' Jones - "The Otoe-Missouria Tribe: the Forgotten Nebraskans' (At the time of this mailing, Mr. Jones had not returned his Specialist Participation Sheet)

With these scholars, a variety of themes for different grade levels and disciplines will be included in this program. By having a variety, a greater number of teachers and students can be exposed to the humanities program as well as the use of distance education in support of their curriculum areas.

#### **4. Humanities Scholars and Other Specialists - How will the humanists and other resource persons participate?**

Four scholars have been contacted and have expressed interest in participating in this project. Among this group, two have participated in programs that have used the two way interactive distance education programs. As the distance education systems allow students in all grades to participate, it is hoped that a variety of programs can be presented for grade levels 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Upon approval of the grant, a date will be arranged to bring the scholars together to introduce them to the distance education medium, selecting the target audience for their presentation, selecting a location near the presenters home as the sending site for the presentation, and selection of presentation dates. The TVDEC director will make arrangements with the sending site for date(s) and time(s) for the presentations.

A distance education specialist will be assigned to each presentation to support the technical aspects related to the presentation.

#### **5. Formats - What format is being proposed?**

The one day workshop for Humanities scholars will help each scholar define how they will be using the distance education technology to support their presentation. To enhance the interactive presentation, a pre-lesson for teachers and students will be designed to unveil the upcoming tele-lesson. Post-lesson suggestions will also be provided to the classroom teacher as possible followup activities to the presentation.

An example of an enrichment lesson plan for a government forum with Representative Tom Osborne that has been presented to TVDEC consortium schools is attached.

The arranged tele-lesson for each scholar would be presented during one day. The number of 50 minute sessions presented would be based on the number of schools interested in the program. The maximum number of presentations for each scholar would be four in one day.

The four sessions would be arranged during February, March, and April.

#### **6. Target Audience and Publicity Methods**

The Tri-Valley Distance Education Consortium (TVDEC) consists of students in K-12 in 34 public schools. One of the objectives of TVDEC is 'to invigorate current curricular practices'. During the 2001-02 school year, a total of 477 students and teachers participate in 10 different enrichment programs. This data provides evidence that 'enrichment' programs have been successfully introduced to our consortium schools.

TVDEC consortium partners attend four planning meetings during each school term. Upcoming enrichment programs are shared with these schools. In addition, future enrichment programs are shared over discipline listservs and a web page about each program is listed on the Tri-Valley web site. Schools who are interested in these programs can go to the web site to enroll.

**7. Evaluation/Feedback - How will you assess the audience's response to your program? (See attached evaluation form)**

After each program, each participating school is requested to complete an evaluation of the program. The evaluation includes both teacher and student feedback. It is recommended that each site send a letter of appreciation to the program presenter.

At the May meeting of distance education planning meeting, school representatives will review the outcomes of this program. The TVDEC director will work with districts to build consortiums to include humanities programs as part of the 2003-04 curriculum.

**8. Additional Information - Is there any other information you would like the NHS to consider?**

The concept of 'enrichment' programs is something that our member schools are familiar with and endorse. With the model already in place for creating enrichment programs and with the proven accomplishments of those members of the speakers bureau, we see this as a new way to connect our students with 'the knowledge and values' of our past.