

# Timeline Contribution

Consider your selected chapter from Streitmatter's *Mightier than the Sword* and **pull out two specific moments** that are central to the story of media's role in social change. These could be the launch of a new publication; a turning-point headline, photo or illustration; a moment of confrontation/condemnation; or a moment of victory/recognition.

To contribute your moments to our digital timeline, you'll **write a short blurb and select an appropriate piece of media to embed**. (Details below) You may reuse or take inspiration from your blog post and the embedded media you selected earlier.

In class on February 21, we'll assemble the timelines using the digital tool TimelineJS developed by the Knight Lab. <http://timeline.knightlab.com>

## Selecting your moments

The folks at the Knight Lab who created TimelineJS suggest we should "write each event as part of a larger narrative." We won't necessarily know the contours of that narrative until we bring the pieces together, but try to envision it as you write. How does your piece fit in with the other chapters and historical moments we've studied?

Which timeline do your events belong in as part of a larger narrative?

- Stories of activists using media to spread their message

- Stories of the harm that media can do in spreading lies or stalling needed social change

- Stories of publishers recognizing their power/obligation to improve society

You might select two moments that are part of the same story or two that fit into two different timelines.

## Examples using TimelineJS

Student-produced timelines from the University of Puget Sound

<https://research.pugetsound.edu/genderintro/timelinesA>

Professionally-produced timelines from major media organizations

<http://timeline.knightlab.com/index.html#make>

## Preparing your entries

For each timeline moment, provide the following in a Word document.

**Date:** At minimum, you must provide a year. You may also list a specific date or a date range.

**Headline:** <6 words with a strong verb.

**Text:** Just 75-100 words. Make every word count. Focus on how this one specific event reveals something significant about a larger story.

- You can assume that your audience has some prior familiarity with American history but may need a refresher. Make strategic use of scene-setting phrases like “Amid roiling tensions over...” or “After decades of organizing...” to efficiently provide background/context.
- Identify **two words or phrases in your blurb that could be hyperlinked** and where those links should direct (somewhere more specific than a Wikipedia page). Instead of actually embedding the hyperlink, just underline the word that should be linked and add the URL parenthetically after it.

**URL to relevant media:** Follow the guidelines for embedded media in your blog post. You may select a photo, video, document or audio clip.

**Media credit:** Who deserves attribution for this media element. Format your citation as Creator name/License type/Location as in “Username Jones/Public Domain/Wikimedia Commons”

**Media caption:** An informative sentence (<35 words) that *supplements* the main text. This will focus more on explaining the image but may also provide additional information about the historical moment or the significance of media.

**Background:** Each timeline slide has a customizable background. Depending on the style, we may prefer to use solid color backgrounds or image backgrounds. To help the class prepare to format the timeline, select one of each.

- Use HTMLColorCodes (<https://htmlcolorcodes.com/>) to select a possible complementary background color. Type the six-digit hexcode of your chosen color (e.b. #95c9d3).
- Choose an additional media URL (map, B&W photo, page image, relevant stock photo) following the guidelines above. Provide a citation in the form of a media credit, too.

## Submit your work

Upload a **single Word doc with both entries** to Canvas before class on Feb. 21. Bring your laptop to class that day to work on uploading content and formatting the timeline.