



Black History Month at Trent Durham

Ideas for Faculty to integrate Black History Month content in the classroom

Prepared by:
Marina Morgenshtern
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work

1. **Spotlight Black Leaders** in your discipline, field or profession
2. **Learn and teach about unsung heroes of black history** in your discipline, field or profession:
- <https://www.onlinecollege.org/50-african-americans-who-forever-changed-academia/>

Humanities & Social Science:

<https://thebestschools.org/features/black-scholars-you-should-know/>

Famous Black women: <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/african-american-firsts-women>

Sociology: <https://www.thoughtco.com/influential-black-scholars-and-intellectuals-4121686>

Education: <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/african-american-firsts-education>

Firsts Civil Rights Activists: <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/african-american-firsts-civil-rights-activists>

Science and Medicine:

<https://www.biography.com/people/groups/african-american-firsts-science-medicine>

<https://www.biography.com/people/groups/famous-black-scientists>

Black mathematicians: <https://famous-mathematicians.com/10-famous-black-mathematicians-and-their-contributions/>

Black inventors: <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/famous-black-inventors>

Humanities and Arts:

Black writers: <https://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-writers>

Black artists: <https://www.biography.com/news/jean-michael-basquiat-black-artists>
<https://www.biography.com/tag/black-history>

Business:

Black business leaders who changed the world: <https://famous-mathematicians.com/10-famous-black-mathematicians-and-their-contributions/>

Black entrepreneurs throughout history: <https://tech.co/news/21-successful-black-entrepreneurs-throughout-history-2015-02>

3. **Bring in a Guest Speaker to Share Their Insights** on the intersections between Black History and your course topic
4. **Engage students with Black History Month Trivia** (try this idea of Who Am I Bingo: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Black-History-Who-Am-I-Bingo-1035527>)
5. **Bring Hip Hop and other creative expressions grounded in Black history** into your classroom (Check out <http://hiphoped.com/>)
6. **Turn your classroom into a museum:** Have your students choose a notable black figure they'd like to know more about. Then host a living museum right in your classroom. Students can dress up as and share what they learned about the figure they chose.
7. **Assign books with black characters** (use <http://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/1000-black-girl-books-resource-guide/> to find the books for different kinds of readers)
8. **Assign books by Black authors.** For a list of Black Canadian authors, start here: <https://www.cbc.ca/books/14-must-read-works-of-fiction-by-black-canadian-authors-1.4535443>
And <https://www.cbc.ca/2017/canadathistoryofus/black-history-in-canada-a-reading-list-1.4120239>
9. **Browse**
 - a. **videos on Black Canadian history** on <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>
 - b. **digital collections of Ontario Black History Society Archives** at <http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/obho/info/index.html>
 - c. **virtual museum** at <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/edu/ViewLoitCollection.do%3Bjsessionid=23640EDE4050E0415702263D4E50CAAD?method=preview&lang=EN&id=2999>

- d. **Black Canadian communities** at <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/historic-black-communities.html> or/and
 - e. **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** in Harlem, New York for event video archives, podcasts of visiting scholars, oral histories and conversations celebrating black history and culture from Harlem residents to scholars and intellectuals across the African Diaspora:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/schomburg/digital-schomburg>
10. **Learn about legacies and institutions** that Canadians of Caribbean and African descent created to advance equality and human rights: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/legacies-institutions.html>
11. **Learn about historic Black Canadian communities:**
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/historic-black-communities.html>
And Black History in Canada Education guide: https://tce-live2.s3.amazonaws.com/media/studyguides/EN_BlackHistory_Digital.pdf
12. **Host a poetry reading.** Have students choose a poem or two by a black poet to learn and recite for the class or an audience made up of school community members. Check out Rollcall by George Elliot Clarke at <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/clarke-poem.html> for a great starting point. And don't forget the ambiance! Choose a student to serve as the emcee, write up a program, dim the lights, and play some jazz in between performances. The Poetry Foundation also has excellent resources that can help get you started: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/101640/celebrating-black-history-month>
13. **Listen Up:** RadioPublic has an excellent roundup of podcasts about black history for you and your students to listen to:
- https://radiopublic.com/witness-witness-black-historyG7qZA6?utm_campaign=explore_20170131&utm_medium=web&utm_source=medium
 - <https://about.radiopublic.com/2017/01/31/explore-black-history-with-these-podcasts/>
14. **Become a mentor** while paying attention to the following essential guide for mentoring black youth: <http://www.forharriet.com/2015/07/5-things-every-mentor-needs-to-know.html#axzz4XepkjCAu>

CHALLENGE THE WAY YOU THINK