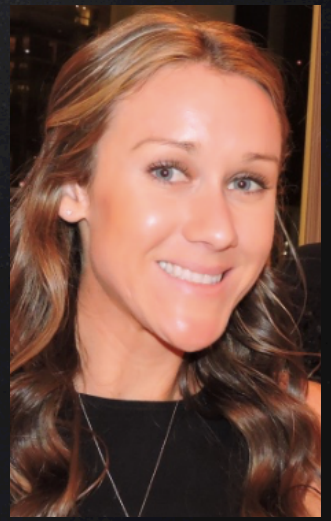


Janet Leach

Usability Study on an Orientation Website for a Middle School Elective

About Me...

- ✘ Middle School Teacher for 5 years
- ✘ Yearlong Elective
- ✘ Work at a School on a Military Base

1.

Have you ever served in the military or have any family in the military?

Please use the polling feature.

✓ ✗

Yes or No

Military families relocate 10 times more often than civilian families -- on average, every 2 or 3 years.

Source: Mental Health Advisory Team 9 http://armymedicine.mil/Documents/MHAT_9_OEF_Report.pdf. 2013 (accessed Nov 5, 2014).

Moving....

is stressful!

How moving affects a child….

- ✘ Emotional Consequences
- ✘ Academic Challenges
- ✘ Self-Esteem
- ✘ Separation Anxiety

There are some benefits of moving for a child…

- ✘ Change bad habits
- ✘ Strengthen family bond
- ✘ New experiences

Frequent relocation affects not only the family but also teachers!

2015-2016 School Year
Entered/Exited My Classroom:

Total
so far

34!

Example of typical movement of military fam…

Something needed to be done!

- ✘ Class set of computers- use them!
- ✘ Kids don’t like to read the current class syllabus- too wordy!
- ✘ A website needed to be created

Before the orientation site...

1

No formal procedure for new students

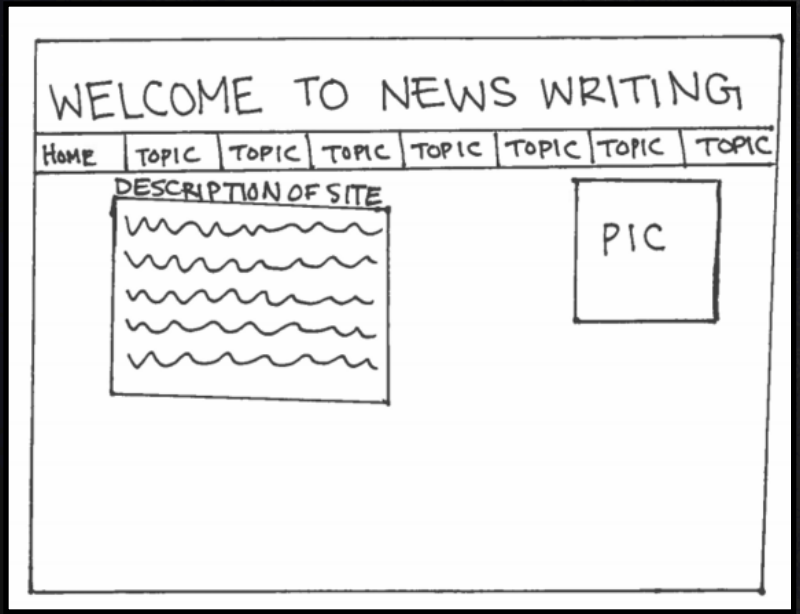
2

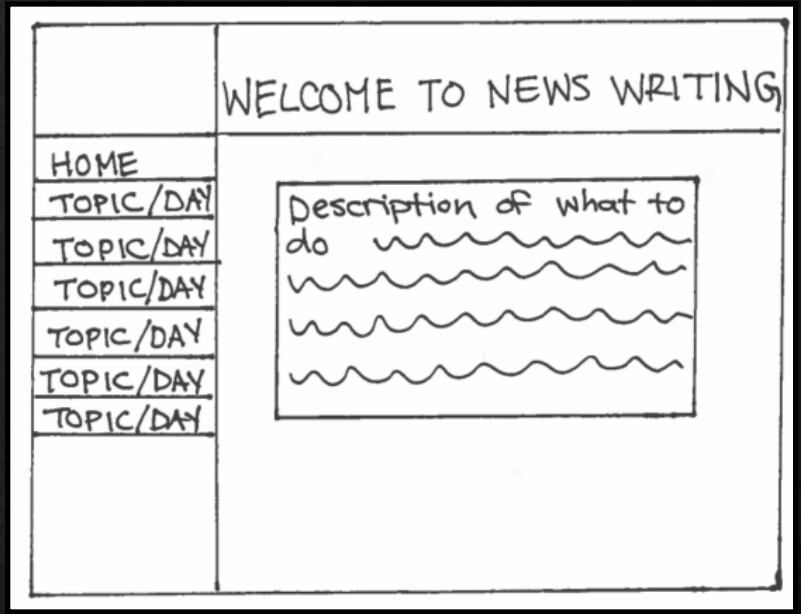
Grading/ lessons would get pushed back to get new student situated

3

“Star Students” would help incoming students (took away from their own learning time)

Paper Prototypes





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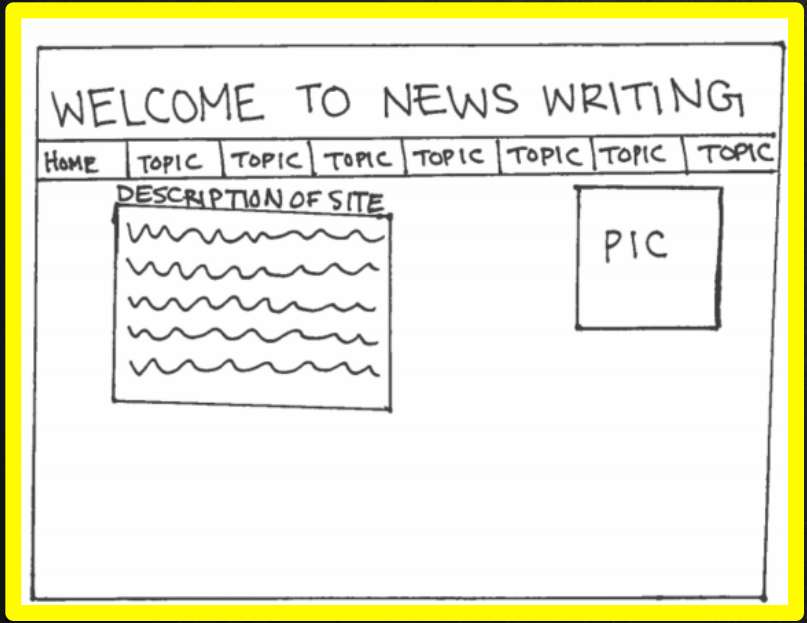

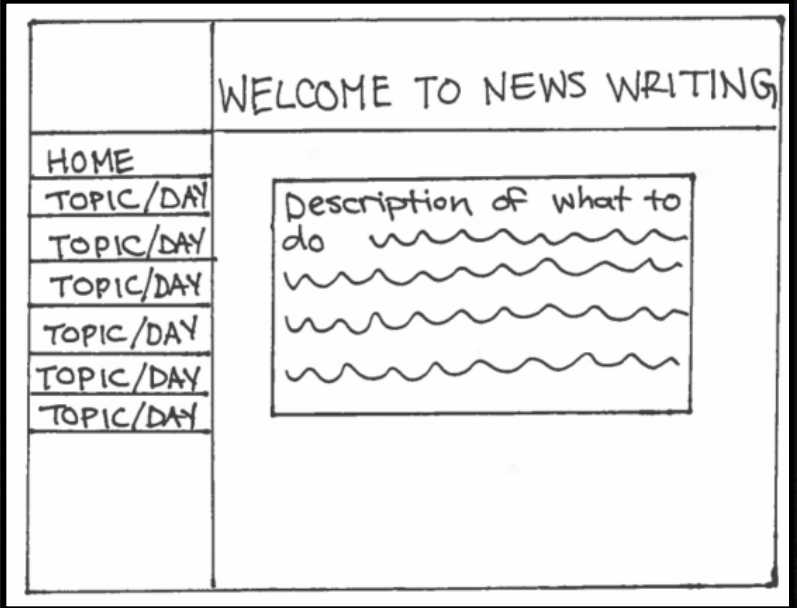

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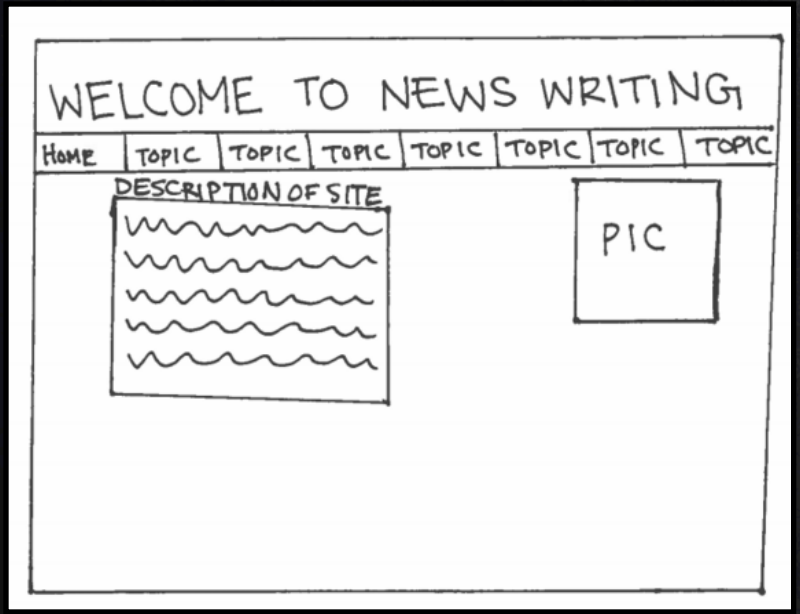

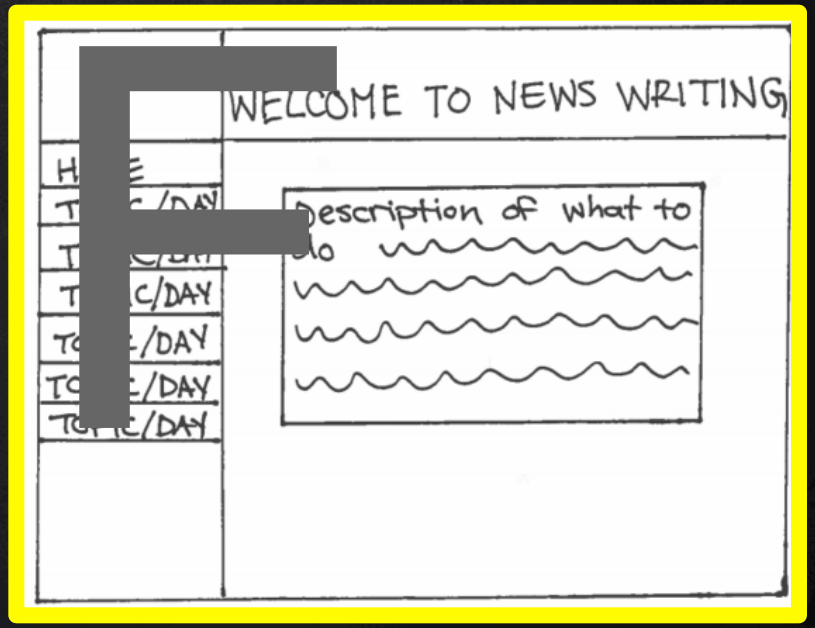

weebly

weebly

www.WelcomeToNewswriting.weebly.com

Homepage

Original

Homepage

Original VS Revised

- Welcome!
- Day 1
- Day 2
- Day 3
- Day 4
- Day 5
- Day 6

welcome

TO
NEWS WRITING!

WITH MISS LEACH

WHEELER MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEED A CHECKLIST?CLICK HERE

Welcome!
Day 1
Day 2
Day 3
Day 4
Day 5
Day 6
welcome
TO
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welcome

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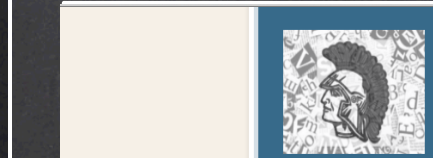


Welcome!

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

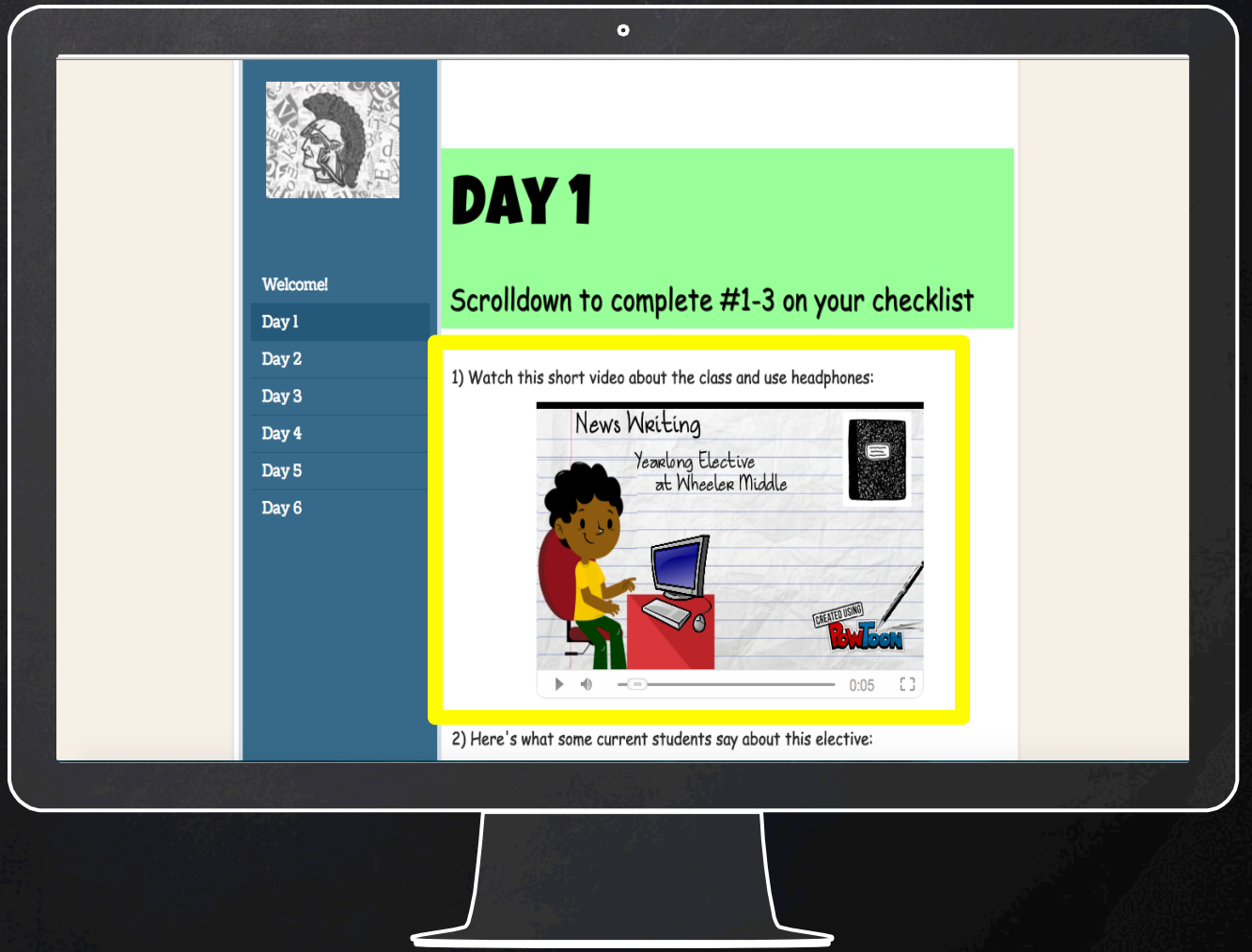
DAY 1

Scrolldown to complete #1-3 on your checklist

1) Watch this short video about the class and use headphones:

2) Here's what some current students say about this elective:

Powtoon Video About Class



Student Testimonials

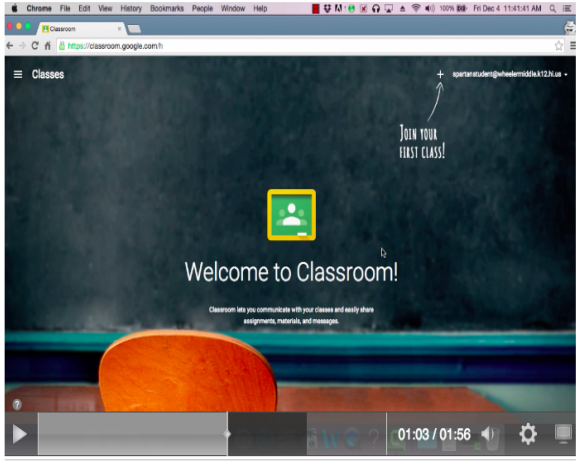
Student Testimonials

Instructional Video

How to enroll in Google Classroom

Every assignment that you have to do for Miss Leach is online. Yes, EVERY assignment. You will use a computer every day in class. The only actual paper you will touch in class is the school newspaper when it is published and ready to fold! You should've received your Wheeler Middle School google account and password from transition center. Look on page 27 in your planner. Take your planner out of your backpack now because you will need it after watching this video:

Watch this video using headphones:



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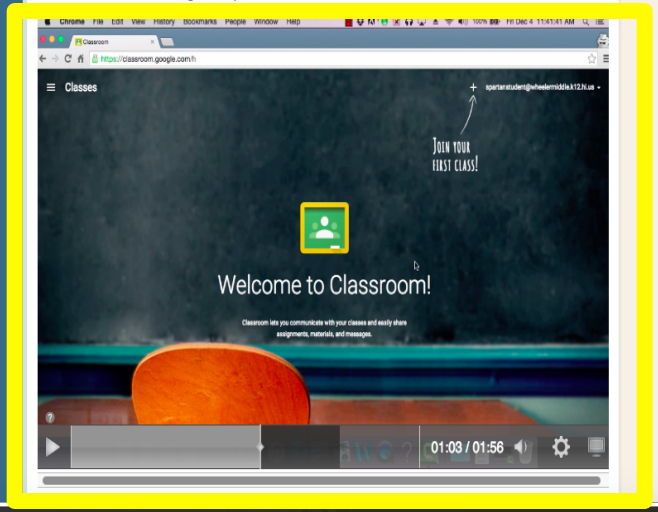
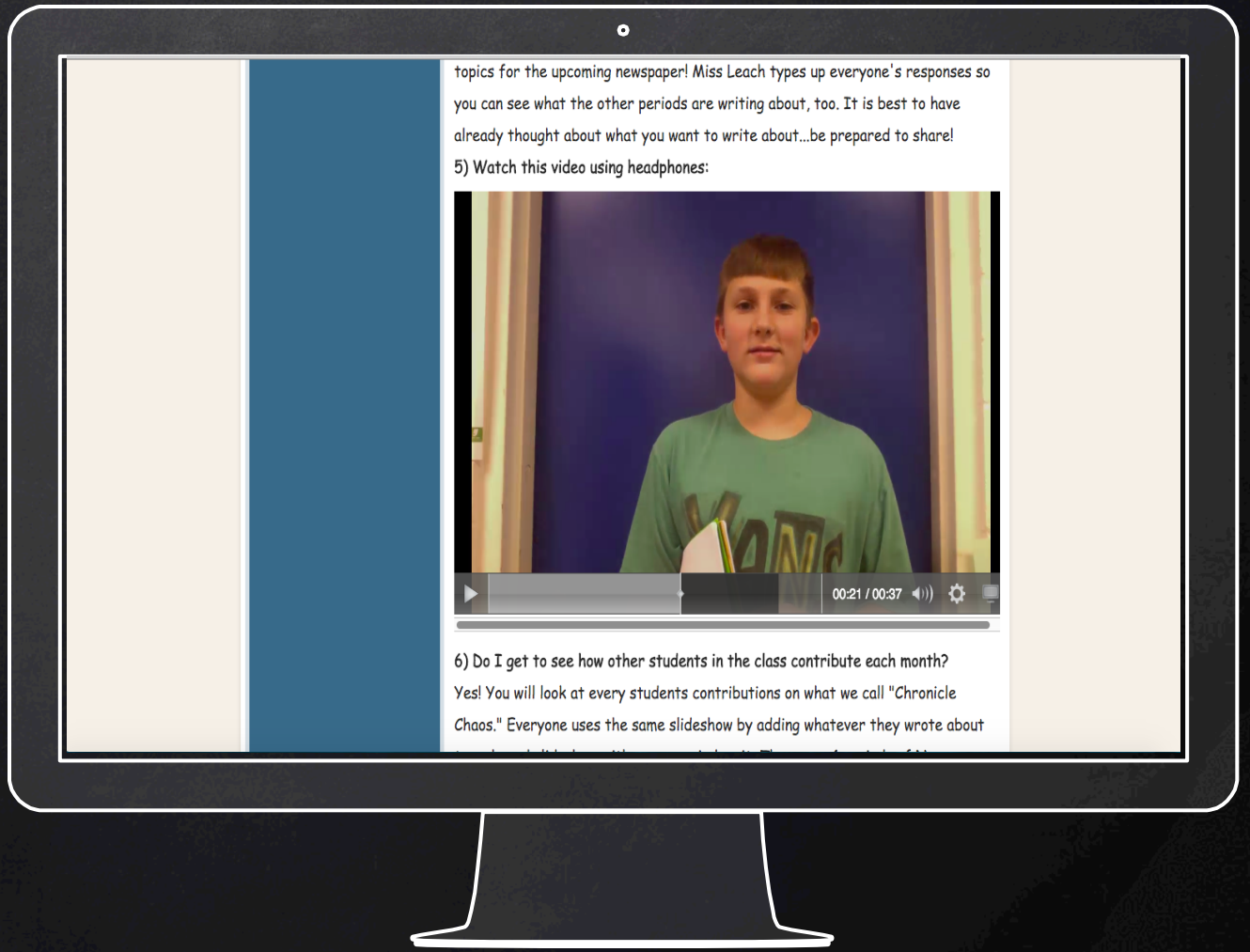


Google Apps for Education

Camtasia Studio®

Student Testimonials



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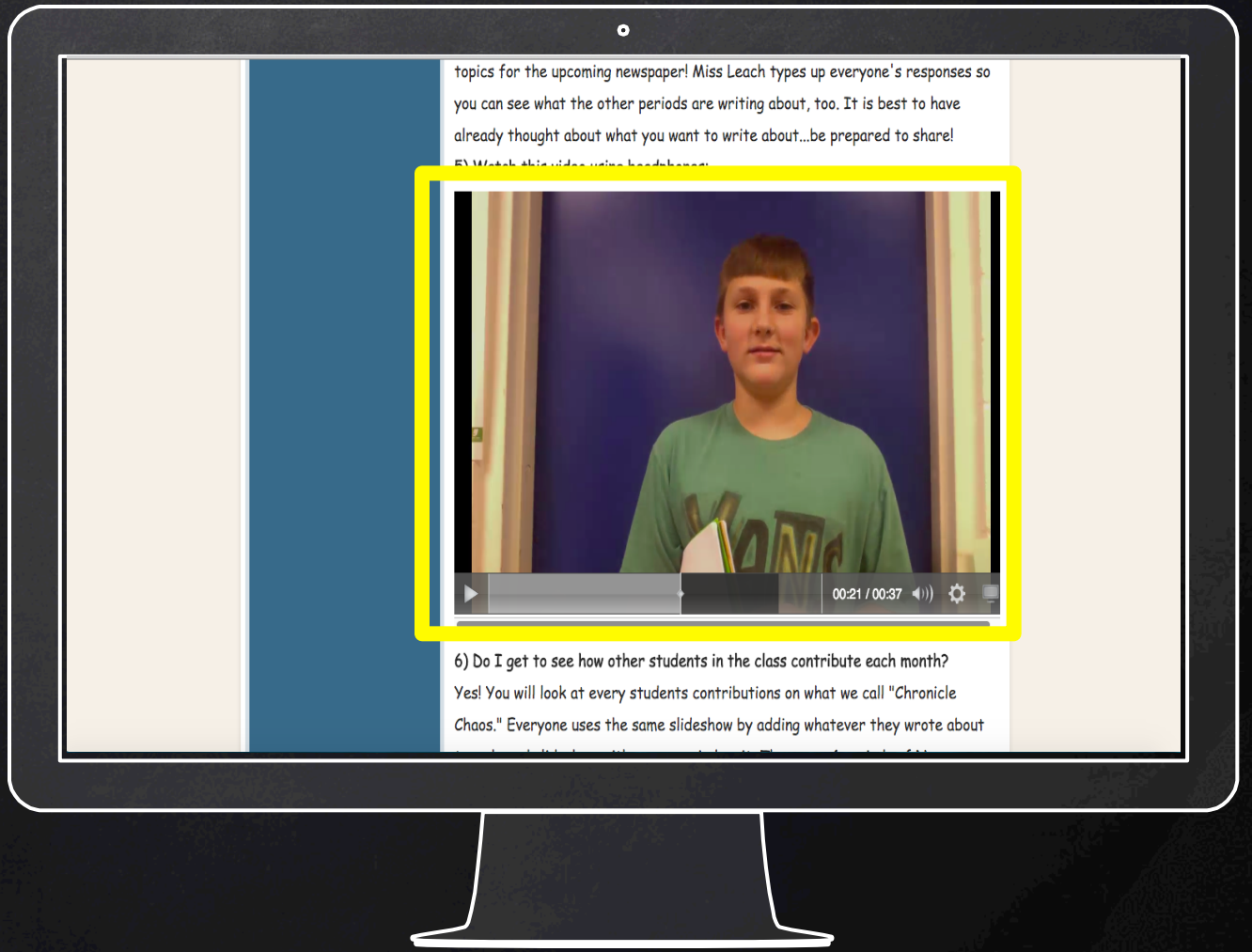
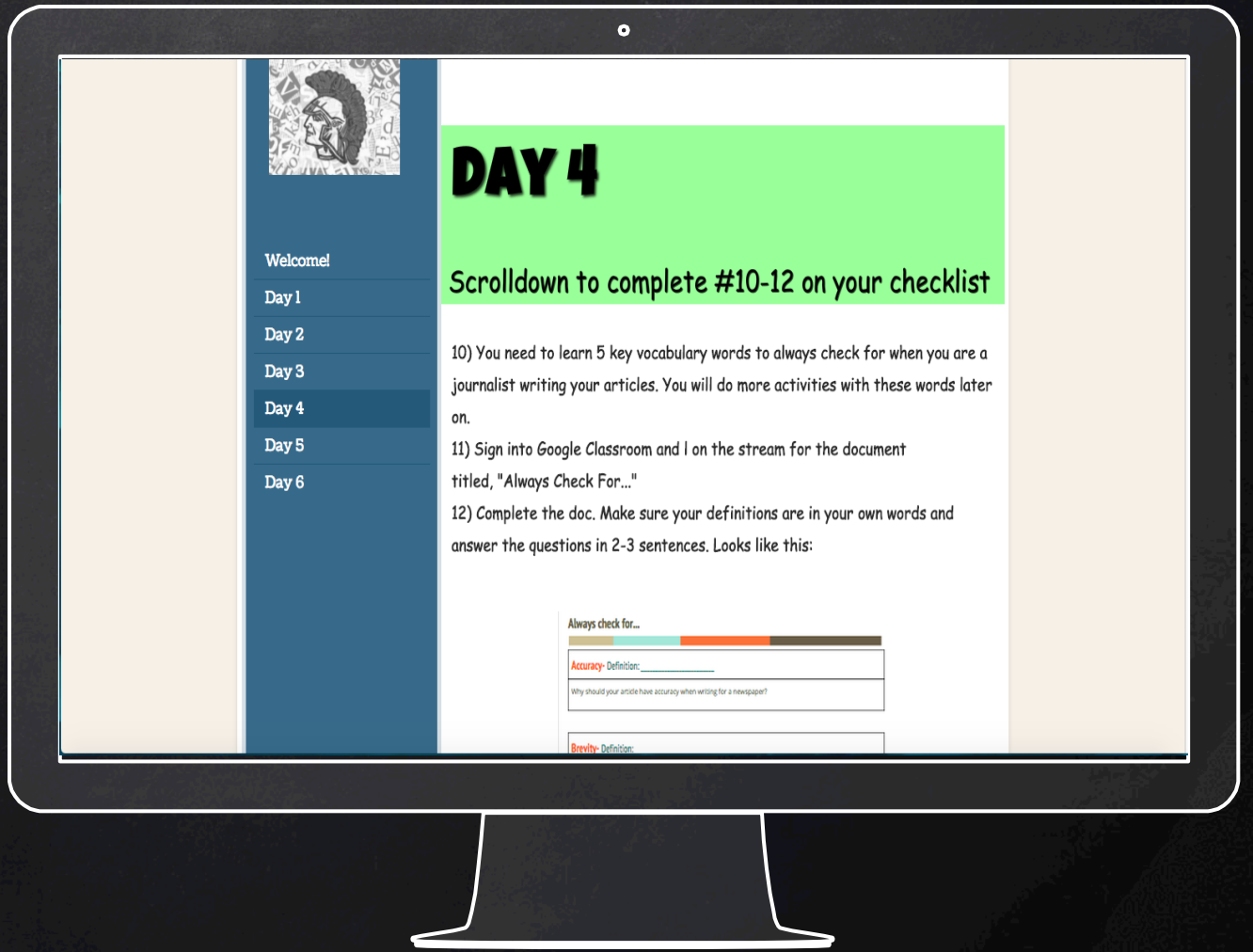


Various Assignments



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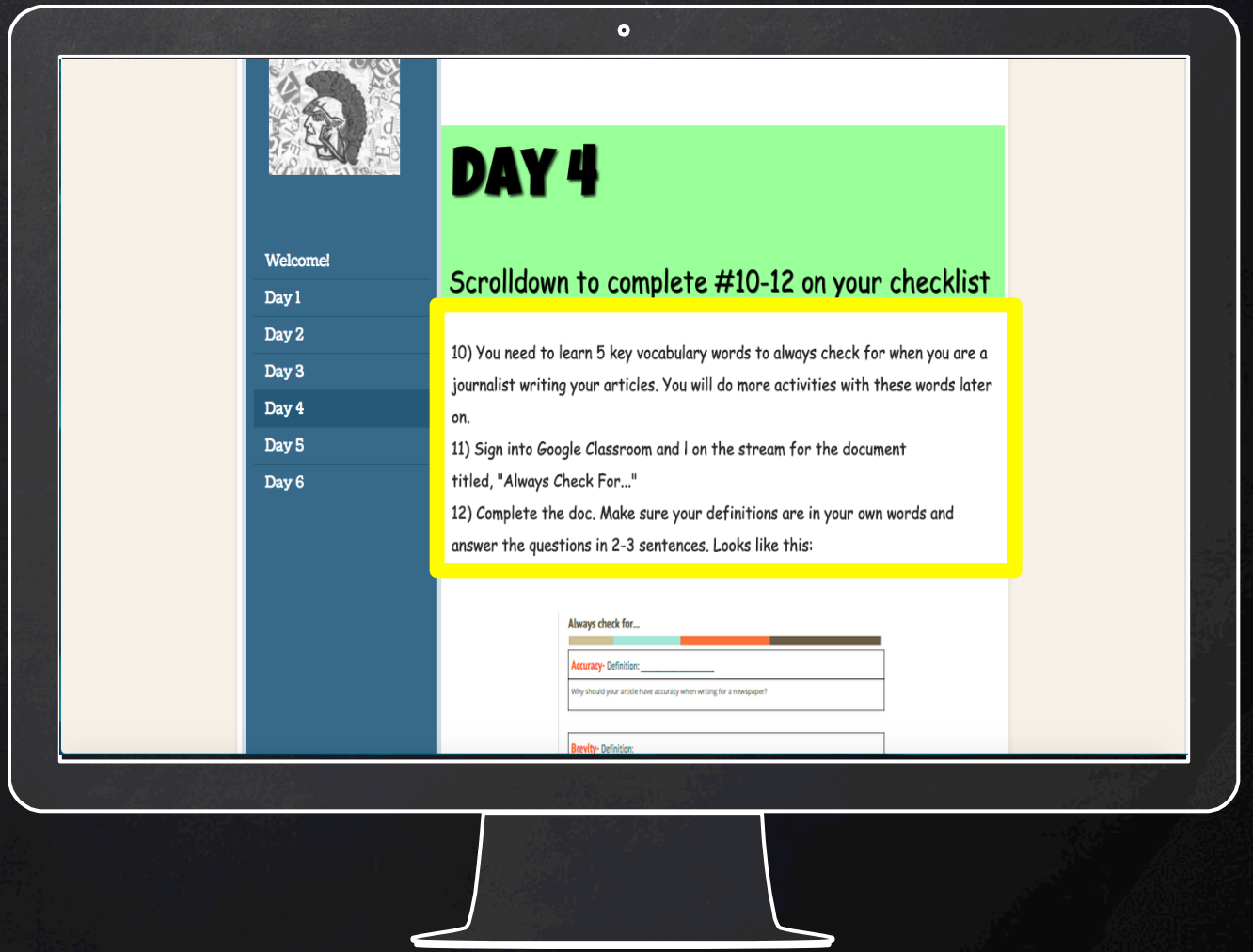
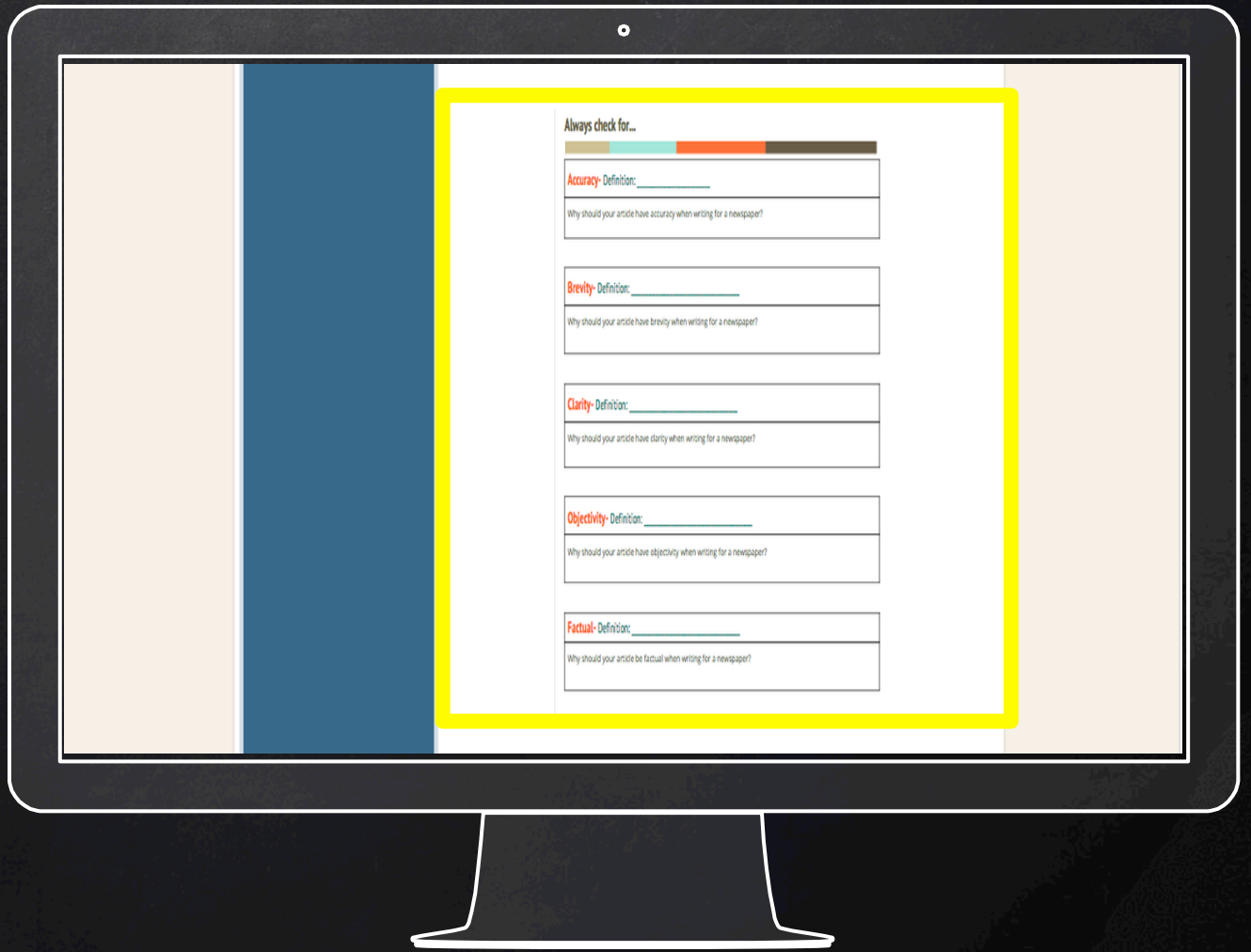
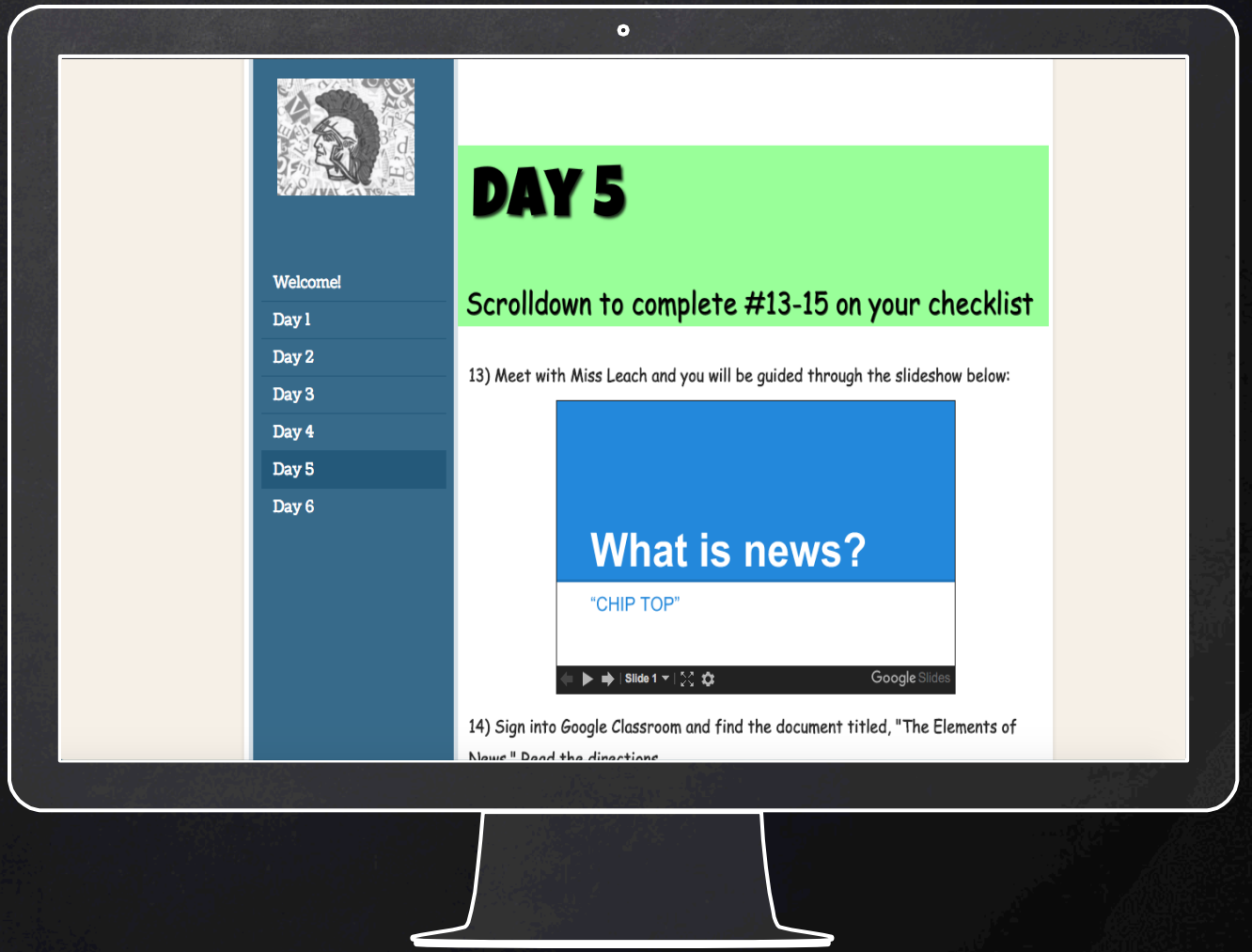


Various Assignments

Google docs

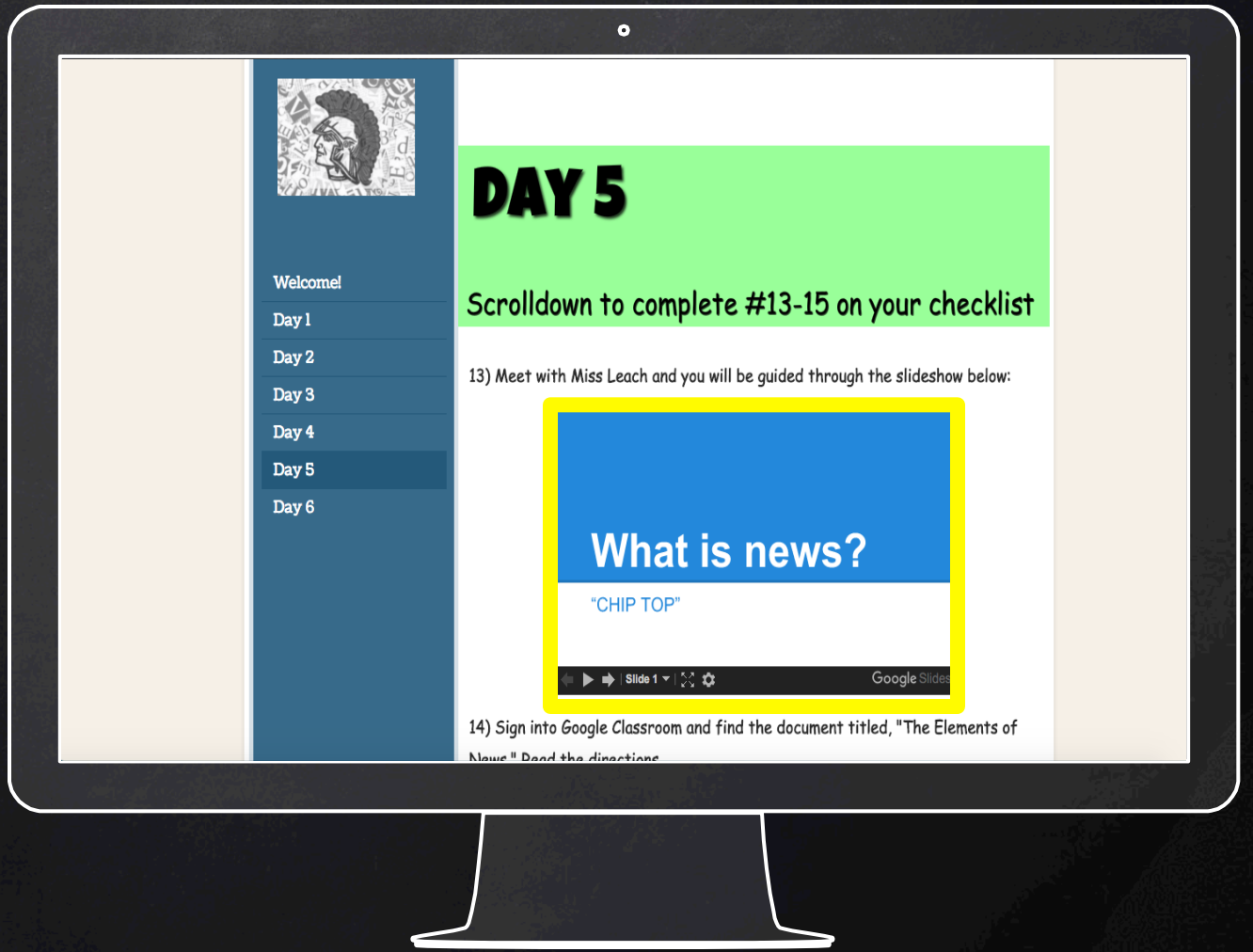


Synchronous Activities



Synchronous Activities

Slides in Google Drive



Checklist!

Welcome to News Writing!

Orientation Site Checklist

Directions: Use the checklist below as you follow along on the orientation site: www.welcometonewswriting.weebly.com. Check the boxes as you complete each activity listed below.

"DAY 1" Page

- ❑ 1) I watched the short video about the class
- ❑ 2) I read what current students think about the class
- ❑ 3) I joined "News Writing" on Google Classroom with this code: jhnj7qx
- ❑ List ANY Questions you have so far:

_____

_____

"DAY 2" Page

- ❑ 4) I read what is typed under: "What is Story Storm"

Explain what story storm is in your own words:

_____

- ❑ 5) I watched the video titled: "Story Storm Student Testimonials"
- ❑ 6) I read the paragraph
- ❑ 7) Write month of Chronicle Chaos are you looking at: _____

List your favorite contributions from that month:

_____

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"DAY 3" Page

- ❑ 8) I found the doc titled, "Expectations for News Writing" on Google Classroom
- ❑ 9) I finished the doc titled, "Expectations for News Writing"

"DAY 4" Page

- ❑ 10) There are ____ vocabulary words I'll always need to check for in my article writing
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- ❑ 12) I finished the doc and made sure the definitions are in my own words and my explanations are 2-3 complete sentences.

"DAY 5" Page

- ❑ 13) I met with Miss Leach and understand the different types of news
- ❑ 14) I found the doc titled, "Elements of News," on Google Classroom
- ❑ 15) I completed the doc titled, "Elements of News."

"DAY 6" Page

- ❑ 16) Who does the website say you can interview for your articles:

_____

- ❑ 17) I found the doc titled, "Open Ended Q's" on Google Classroom stream
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Checklist!

- ✓ Organized by days

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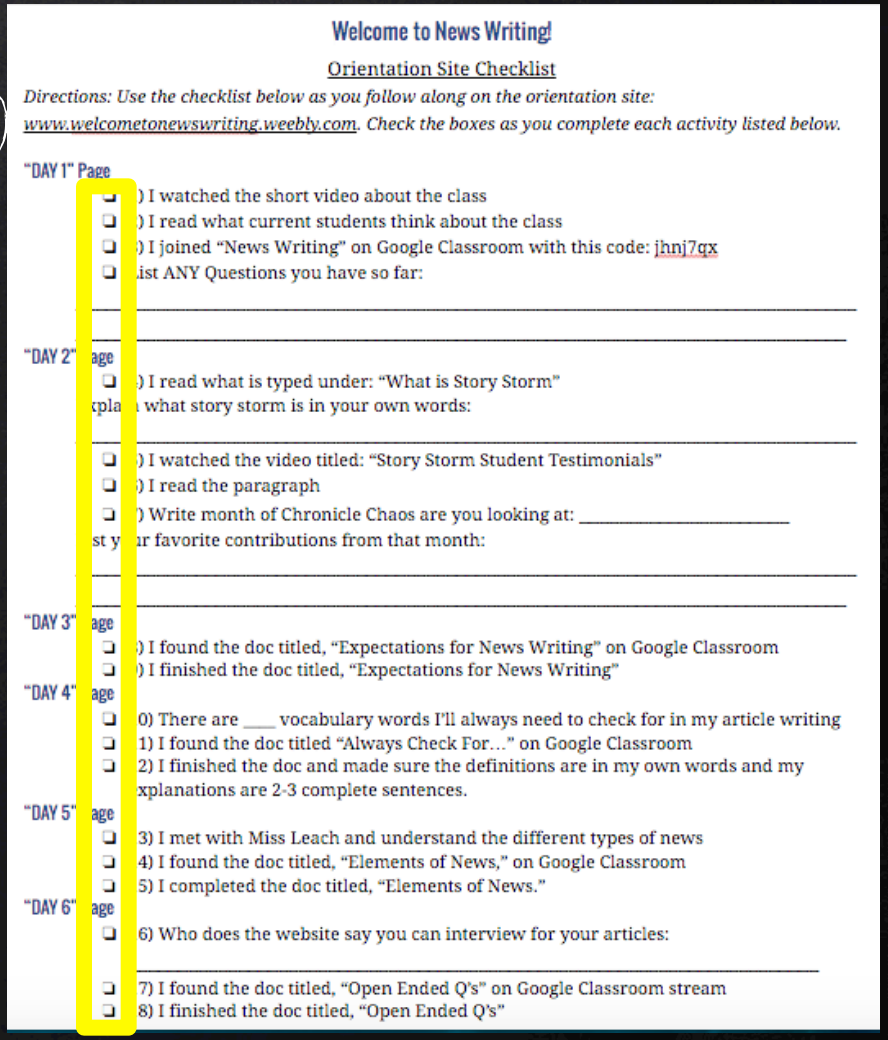
Checklist!

- ✓ Organized by days
- ✓ Keeps students on track



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Checklist!

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- ✓ Keeps students on track
- ✓ Printable from site

Google docs

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What didn’t go so well...

Weebly

- ✓ More space costs $
- ✓ Buy the domain name to get rid of the “weebly.com”
- ✓ Graphic design class

Checklist

- ✓ If students lose it…
- ✓ Overwhelming at first glance
- ✓ Need to add other activities

Camtasia

- ✓ Time consuming
- ✓ $100 (but school paid for it!)
- ✓ Video making class

What went well…

Weebly

- ✓ Free!
- ✓ Different templates
- ✓ Easy to embed slideshows and videos
- ✓ Site domain selection available

Checklist

- ✓ Fits on 1 page
- ✓ Guides students

Camtasia

- ✓ Tutorial videos on how to use it
- ✓ Prefer it over iMovie

Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at
jkleach@hawaii.edu