The Po-Boy Sign Shop | Teacher Guide

Louisiana Foodways Visual Studio • Lesson 008 • Grades 9–12 • lettering and layout • 3–5 sessions

Essential inquiry

How can we explore New Orleans sandwich shops and neighborhood design through lettering and layout and communicate an original idea?

Cultural or technical context

New Orleans sandwich shops and neighborhood design. Louisiana foodways are living traditions with diverse Black, Indigenous, Creole, Cajun, Acadian, Vietnamese, Isleño and other contributors. Teach with credited sources and avoid treating one recipe as universal.

Learning targets

Students will demonstrate lettering and layout; research the relevant context; create an original artifact or composition; justify at least one change after critique.

Materials and preparation

Drawing paper, scrap collage paper, pencils, markers, colored pencils, safe adhesive, optional photographs of locally credited foodways; no cooking required.

Differentiation

Students define a specific inquiry, research competing interpretations, run technique trials, present an annotated process portfolio, and evaluate impact.

Extension beyond Grade 12

Advanced learners may deepen their research, technique and documentation while keeping the same core inquiry.

Ten-step teaching sequence

01. Notice two contrasting examples or observations associated with New Orleans sandwich shops and neighborhood design; name one uncertainty.
02. Investigate who made or uses the source material and what context must be represented accurately.
03. Complete two low-stakes trials of lettering and layout; label what changed between trials.
04. Sketch three independent approaches to the question: New Orleans sandwich shops and neighborhood design.
05. Select one approach; plan materials, ethical citation, composition and success criteria.
06. Design an original storefront sign with readable lettering and context. Record one decision that differs from the first sketch.
07. Give peer feedback using one visible detail and one clarifying question.
08. Revise at least one element based on evidence; photograph or annotate the change.
09. Present artwork with an artist statement, source credit and medium information.
10. Explain how the technique and concept developed, plus one next studio goal.

Discussion prompts

01. What evidence tells you something important about New Orleans sandwich shops and neighborhood design?
02. How does lettering and layout change the meaning of the result?
03. Which source is being credited, and whose voice is missing?
04. What feedback prompted a visible or audible revision?

Formative assessment

At entry: one baseline observation. During: two skill trials and a peer critique. Exit: final result, revision evidence and source credit.

Safety and accessibility

Provide choice of media, mobility alternatives, visual/auditory access supports, and permission-based documentation. No tasting or food preparation is required for foodways projects.

Reference and standards note

https://www.nps.gov/jela/learn/historyculture/louisiana-foodways.htm
https://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/CSE/creole_food_trad.html
Align locally with current grade-level arts standards; do not treat this resource as a verified Louisiana standards crosswalk.

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