

QUICK GUIDE TO USING TIMELINE CREATORS

Timeline creators are great tools that you and your students can use to share learning, tell stories, and present research in engaging and interactive ways by combining text with images, sound, video, and/or links to online content. Timeline creators can be used for varied assignments, including ones that you might not associate with a “timeline.” This is because timeline creators incorporate various media in addition to text. In addition, they encourage us to chunk content into digestible segments. Most timelines can be viewed online or in presentation mode. Examples of assignments include:

- Historical timeline for an event (battle) or a sustained development (technological change)
- Reflection on learning over time
- How multiple versions of a story or film were created over time and related to each other
- Geographically dispersed trend (spread of a disease, interrelated revolutions)
- Information about cultures and locales
- Visually oriented wiki
- Plot, analysis, or interpretation of a story, film, or book
- Summary of an author’s argument, with links to additional images and online examples
- Multimedia study guide
- Collaborative synthesis and condensation of information from a multi-week module

Several timeline creators with free versions are highlighted below.

Timeline Creator and Example	Style and components	When this might be a good choice
Sutori Sutori example (includes paid features like quizzes, videos, and discussion)	Presents a visual story as you scroll down through time. Free version incorporates text and images.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis is on narrative, interpretation. • Reflective assignments documenting change over time. • Collaborative assignments.
TimelineJS TimelineJS example	Slideshow-style timelines easily incorporate media from sources like YouTube, Vimeo, Vine, Google Maps, Wikipedia, and SoundCloud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using language(s) beyond English. • Emphasis is on conveying information through a set sequence. • Presentations can draw heavily from social media and online sources. • Students have Google accounts (timelines are made with a Google Sheet).
Timeglider Timeglider Example	Zoomable interactive timeline, like a map for time. Incorporates text, images, links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want students to make decisions about relative importance of events. • Emphasis on viewer-driven exploration, not set sequences of events.
myhistro Myhistro example	Map-based timelines that can incorporate text, photos, and videos, such as Youtube.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of events is important.