

**Champaign County Education from 1890 -1940:
A Comparison
2010 Fellowship, Champaign County Archives
Melissa Luffman**

Lesson 3: Newspaper Analysis

This lesson involves examination of newspaper articles, completion of graphic organizers, and forming opinions or conclusions about the main ideas of the article on education and curriculum between 1890 - 1940.

Teacher Prep:

- Make copies and familiarize yourself with the following articles:
 - [501 Books Bought, Donated](#), *Urbana Courier*, 10/35/1937
 - [Nickel Tells of School Aims in Art Education](#), *Urbana Courier*, 11/02/1937
 - [School Reader Used to Study Everyday Life](#), *Urbana Courier*, 10/17/1937
 - [School Music : A Valuable and Necessary Thing in Public Schools](#), *Urbana Courier*, 5/14/1897
 - [Three R's Have Been Taught in County for Almost a Century](#),
Champaign paper and date unknown

- Make copies of the following [drawing conclusions graphic organizer](http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/PDFs/Drawing_Conclusions_from_Information.pdf):
http://my.hrw.com/nsmedia/intgos/html/PDFs/Drawing_Conclusions_from_Information.pdf

Classroom Activities:

- Pair students in good working groups based on ability and cooperation.
- Each article varies in length and reading level. Pass out two-three appropriate articles and one organizer to each pair so that reading, discussing, and note-taking can be meaningful.
- Students will fill out the [drawing conclusions organizer](#) for each article:
 - [501 Books Bought, Donated](#)
 - [Nickel Tells of School Aims in Art Education](#)
 - [School Reader Used to Study Everyday Life](#)
 - [School Music : A Valuable and Necessary Thing in Public Schools](#)
 - [Three R's Have Been Taught in County for Almost a Century](#)

- Students will note at least 4 main ideas from the articles and write their opinion or conclusion from what they learned.
- When each pair is finished, regroup and have the students discuss the articles together. Ask pairs from each article, to define the main ideas and their conclusion and opinions from their organizers. Allow students to discuss and ask questions about each article.
- After reading and reviewing the articles together, students will write an essay explaining how the current schools have evolved into what it is today, reviewing the key words: **clothing, school, books, supplies, activities, teacher, students.**

- Students should draw in information from articles and ideas they discussed from the newspaper articles, and other material discussed throughout the unit.