

10 May, 1995

Dear Dal

Thanks for your call this evening. Here are my thoughts about your proposal for a publication on the Kennedy assassination.

1. The target market for the publication would be form 6 or 7 History. As far as the syllabus is concerned, it would be a "special study" topic. The emerging unit standards from NZQA would also provide a significant opportunity for such a resource.
2. It would appear that the topic is of great interest to many, including 6th and 7th formers, and would therefore appeal as a special study topic.
3. It is essential that your primary objective in developing the resource is to *meet the needs of History teachers*. They won't be prepared to spend too long on studying it, and so they won't be prepared to spend too much money on it. However, if it does meet their needs, and it is attractively priced, then they would be likely to buy it. (History numbers have declined over recent years, and so some popularising of history would be welcomed.)
4. My feeling is that your best bet is to develop the resource around the **unit standards**. That is what teachers are most concerned about at the moment. It would need to be a complete package with assessment activities and marking schedules. A slim book would tell the story, or set the scene, and include important documents, photographs etc. An accompanying teacher book would contain all the activities, photocopiable assignment sheets, management suggestions and so on.
5. What is absolutely vital is for you to scale everything down to a level that will work in the classroom. Choose the history objectives first, and then decide which aspects of the case are best suited to writing learning activities around to meet those objectives. You should not set out to tell the whole story! It won't work if you do that, though clearly you have to tell enough of the story to provide a meaningful context and motivate the students.
6. It is very important that you talk this through thoroughly with history teachers, now, following on from the feedback you received on the survey forms. When your thoughts are crystallised, then set about trialling it with your nightclass. I am sure they won't mind, or even notice that they are "doing history"! I would then be keen to have a look again at how it is shaping up. Good luck!

Kind regards,

Chris

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Harold