

Student instructions

Imagine you are a film director and want to make a new film about Cromwell. You need to sell your idea to a film studio to get money for your film. This is called a 'pitch' and your task is to create a pitch which summarises all your ideas about how Cromwell should be interpreted.

You will be working in pairs / small groups.

Before you can start to prepare your presentation you need to:

- Decide what angle you are going to take. Do you think Cromwell should be depicted as a hero or a tyrant? How will you portray Charles I?
- Decide which events in Cromwell's life to include/exclude. You do not need to show everything, but focus on the events which you feel exemplify your interpretation of Cromwell. Use the **table** of the key events in Cromwell's life to help.
- Research the details of key events. Use your notes from previous lessons and the following websites:
 - <http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/biog/oliver-cromwell.htm>
 - <http://www.olivercromwell.org/>
 - <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/Cromwell/index.htm>
 - <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/Cromwell/quote/quote1.htm> (a useful source of Cromwell's own words/speeches)

In your pitch you will be presenting to the rest of the class. You need to be passionate about your ideas and speak persuasively. You will need to include:

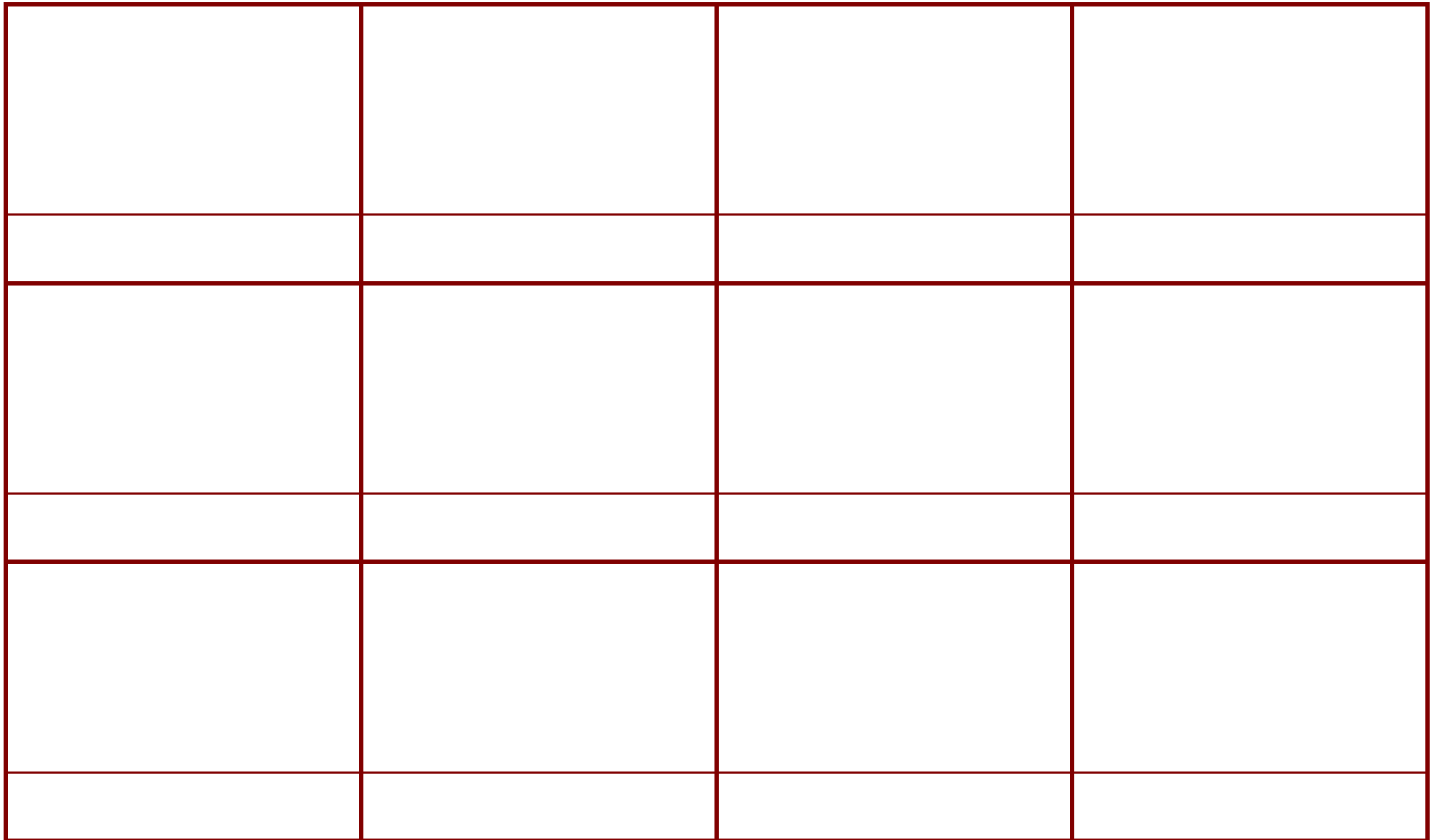
- 1) A name for your film.
- 2) A storyboard of the key scenes you want to include. Include what the scene is about and draw a picture to bring it to life.
- 3) A poster to promote the film.
- 4) Some casting suggestions – who to play the part of Cromwell and the King and other major characters. (Tip: think carefully about this as some actors are associated with heroic/villainous roles.)

You will be assessed on the quality of your pitch and accompanying materials. In particular you should aim to give a coherent interpretation of Cromwell and all your elements should work together.

Key events in Cromwell's life

Year	Events in Cromwell's Life	Evidence for Hero, Tyrant or Neutral
1599	Cromwell was born in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.	
1628	Cromwell became a Member of Parliament.	
1641	Cromwell spoke in the House of Commons in favour of the Grand Remonstrance, arguing that the King's power should be limited by Parliament.	
1642	On the outbreak of Civil War Cromwell raised troops for Parliament.	
1644	Cromwell was promoted to Lieutenant-General of the Eastern Association Army and his forces contributed to the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Marston Moor.	
1645	Cromwell became Lieutenant-General of the New Model Army and played a major role in Parliament's decisive victory at the Battle of Naseby.	
1647	Cromwell supported the army's views in clashes with Parliament.	
1648	In the second Civil War Cromwell crushed the royalist rising in South Wales. He agreed with the actions of Colonel Pride in purging Parliament of the King's supporters to leave behind a 'Rump' Parliament.	
1649	Cromwell firmly supported the trial of the King. After Charles I's execution Cromwell took command of the army sent to crush the rebellion in Ireland. He ordered the siege of Drogheda in which his troops massacred nearly 3,500 people.	
1650	Cromwell commanded the army sent to crush Scotland. He defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar (September 1650). The Parliamentary army destroyed Dundee, killing 2,000 of the inhabitants.	
1651	Cromwell's forces were victorious at Battle of Worcester, finally defeating the last of the Royalist army.	
1653	Cromwell returned to Parliament and was dismayed by their lack of action. He marched into the Rump Parliament with 40 musketeers and closed it down saying 'In the name of God, go!'. Cromwell became Lord Protector.	
1655	Cromwell established the system of the Major-Generals – a military dictatorship.	
1657	Cromwell rejected Parliament's offer of the Crown and remained Lord Protector.	
1658	Cromwell died at Whitehall. His son Richard became Lord Protector.	
1661	Cromwell's body was exhumed and posthumously beheaded.	

Storyboard template



Example storyboard from the 1970 film 'Cromwell'

1639: Cromwell in a Church when the altar table is moved (on the instructions of Archbishop Laud). He is very angry.	The King with Strafford when he hears of Scottish Revolt. He decides to send an army.	1640: Cromwell attending Parliament. Pym makes a speech about withholding money from the King until he meets their demands.	The King and his advisers debating what to do. Strafford and the Queen advise him to arrest his opponents in Parliament.
The attempted arrest of five members of Parliament. Cromwell is outraged. He declares this is start of civil war.	Cromwell with troops and makes speech. Battle of Edgehill. Cromwell dissatisfied. He decides to start New Model Army.	Cromwell training New Model Army.	Battle of Naseby: Cromwell's NMA outnumbered but victorious.
Cromwell arrests the King but Parliament fail to negotiate a peace settlement.	Cromwell angry with Parliament. He brings troops in to take control.	Cromwell fails to get King to agree to peace terms. He decides to try him for treason.	Trial of the King.

Teaching notes

This task is meant to encourage students to come to a judgement about how they interpret Cromwell. It is designed to come at the end of unit when students have already studied the main events of the Civil War, the execution of Charles and the events in Ireland.

The idea of the film pitch is that students need to be selective about the evidence they use to support their argument in the form of a storyboard. To give the idea of the format of a film pitch you could show a YouTube clip of one of the 'Orange Film Board' cinema advertisements!

Starter suggestion

Show the poster for the 1970 film of Cromwell

http://www.impawards.com/1970/cromwell_ver2_xlg.html. Discuss what impression of Cromwell is given by this poster.

Lesson development

The timeline with key events of Cromwell's life can be used as tool to help draft the storyboard. By deciding whether an event is evidence of heroism or tyranny students can start to select which events they would like to feature in their films.

You may wish to show scenes from the 1970 film Cromwell to demonstrate how he is depicted. Emphasis can be placed on which events to include/exclude – e.g. the 1970 film does not deal with events in Ireland. If you like you can also allow some historical inaccuracies which add to the drama – for instance the 1970 film includes Cromwell as one of the five members Charles I attempted to arrest (a good list of discrepancies is given on the film's Wikipedia page [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cromwell_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cromwell_(film))).

A storyboard from the 1970 film is given here as an example which you could share with your class to help get them started.