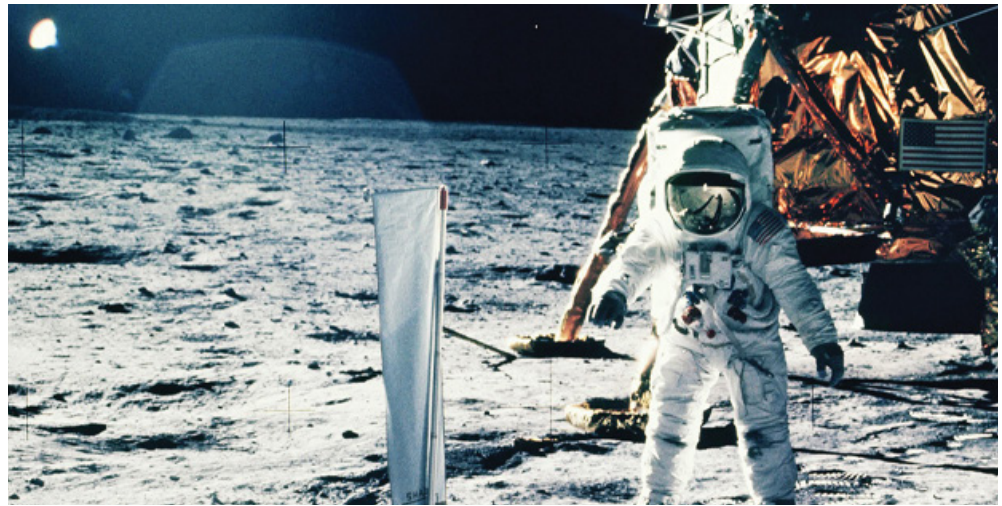


# DESIGN PROMPT 1

## STORYMAP OF THE APOLLO 11 MISSION

Author  
Joshua Glick, PhD  
Hendrix College/MIT

Contact Info  
glick@hendrix.edu



"Moonfire: The Epic Journey of Apollo 11," NASA, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin on the lunar surface. Sarah Buder, "50th Anniversary of Apollo 11," AFAR, July 8, 2019, <https://www.afar.com/magazine/50th-anniversary-of-apollo-11-how-the-moon-landing-changed-our-world>

The deepfake art installation, *In Event of Moon Disaster*, presents a compelling, yet ultimately false account of the "failed" Apollo 11 mission and its aftermath. The Apollo 11 spacecraft did, in fact, safely land on the moon on July 20, 1969. But how might you draw on primary resources to create a credible narrative of the mission, one that might convince a skeptic or a nonbeliever? For this project, you will engage with a wide breadth of sources to craft a multi-media StoryMap of the Apollo 11 mission. Old broadcast footage, news reports, articles, photographs, and maps will provide valuable evidence. The goal is not to construct *the truth* about the mission, as if there was only one singular truth, but a chronological account that involves credible sources. Learning how to locate and analyze these sources is a major goal of this prompt. We will spend time in class discussing research methods and where to access primary materials.



The ArcGIS StoryMaps platform and the "cascade"-style template it offers will frame your narrative. Include a blend of media; for example, original text (written by you), diagrams, and still and moving images. These items will help you to design an informative overview of the U.S. moon landing. While your account should not aim to generate the kind of sensational drama or intrigue of a conspiracy theory, it also shouldn't simply be a cursory timeline. Consider how you can create a compelling account of the mission through the people and events you discuss as well as your careful selection and arrangement of materials. Below, please find some basic parameters of the assignment.



Beaches in Titusville, launch of Apollo 11, David Burnett – Contact Press Images for TIME. Olivia B. Waxman, “The Story Behind TIME’s 1969 Launch-Party Photos,” July 18, 2019, <https://time.com/longform/apollo-party/>

## Minimum amount of media necessary

- 1000+ words of original text.
- 8+ primary document newspaper articles from the online Proquest database of periodicals.
- 3+ additional articles that you locate on your own (can be from any period).
- 10+ photographs from one of the databases listed below.
- 3+ film clips from one of the databases on our prompt.
- 2+ images/diagrams and 2+ clips you locate on your own.

## STEP 1

### Research the Apollo 11 mission using [MIT's online library](#)

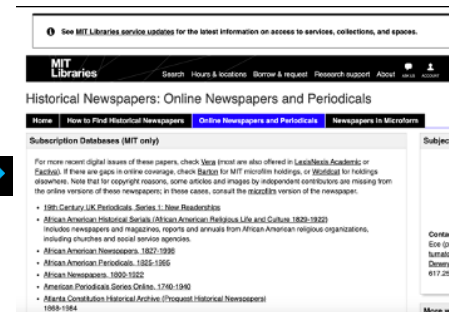
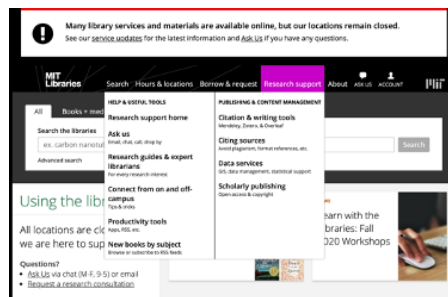
To locate sources, start by going to MIT's library portal. The landing page is [here](#). Hover over one of the top headings, “Research Support,” then click “Research Guides & Expert Librarians,” then “Newspapers – Historical,” and finally, “Online Newspapers and Periodicals.” “Online Newspapers and Periodicals” will bring you to a menu of digitized periodicals.

You do not need to look through all of them! Proquest Historical Newspapers (*New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, etc.) are reputable legacy newspapers that will be helpful for this project. You will want to search within these databases for information about the who/what/where/when/why/how of the Apollo 11 mission.

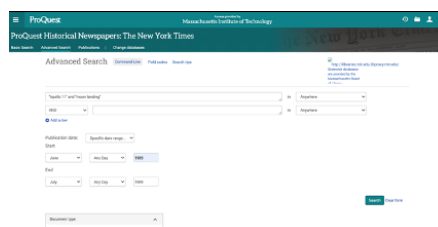
## Resources

[MIT Online Library](#)

[NASA Archives](#)



Entering into one of these databases, click on “Advanced Search,” which will allow you to set more specific parameters and locate more relevant articles; for example, search within July 1969 (the month and year of the Apollo 11 landing) and use keywords/phrases that are separated by quotations along with the word “and.”



You should also incorporate additional articles that address the Apollo 11 mission. These do not need to be articles written at the time of the mission itself. When searching for articles, keep in mind a “check list” that will help you to assess the credibility of the source: Does the article have a clearly stated author? Have you heard of the newspaper or media outlet? Is the article in some way connected to an established institution (university, foundation, government organization)? Is the institution operating under a code/practice that dictates professional guidelines? Stay away from sources that appear on their own or hosted in a seemingly neutral way (i.e. appearing in isolation on a social media platform).

## STEP 2

### Locating still/moving image materials

In addition to reading text-based sources, still and moving images will also provide crucial evidence for your account of the Apollo 11 mission and help you to craft your narrative via StoryMaps. These visuals will not simply make the narrative more dynamic, but ground your account in a material historical world and help you to illustrate your claims.

#### Resources

[MIT Online Library](#)

[NASA Archives](#)

[Woodrow Wilson International Center, Digital Archive, “Space Race” Collection](#)

[American Archive of Public Broadcasting, “Space Exploration on Public Broadcasting”](#)

When incorporating these items, some of the same “best practices” of research will apply or visuals as for written text. It is not enough to scrutinize the photograph or film clip, you must consider the source’s origin as well as the context in which it appears. Thus, a short clip with no attribution that you see on YouTube as part of a sequence of space-themed media might not be the best source for this kind of assignment. There are too many unknowns about the artifact. When unsure or in doubt, ask! We’ll spend time in class talking about sources.

Below are some useful online archives to explore:



[NASA Archives](#)



[Woodrow Wilson International Center, Digital Archive, “Space Race” Collection](#)



[American Archive of Public Broadcasting, “Space Exploration on Public Broadcasting”](#)

When incorporating these items, some of the same “best practices” of research will apply for visuals as for written text. It is not enough to scrutinize the photograph or film clip, you must consider the source’s origin as well as the context in which it appears. Thus, a short clip with no attribution that you see on YouTube as part of a sequence of space-themed media might not be the best source for this kind of assignment. There are too many unknowns about the artifact. When unsure or in doubt, ask! We’ll spend time in class talking about sources.

## STEP 3

### Writing your text and constructing your StoryMap

It will of course be impossible to give a play-by-play of the Apollo 11 mission in its entirety, but you want to include key moments that help the reader understand the significance of what happened. Place all of your materials within the cascade StoryMap template. You can find StoryMaps through MIT. Rather than have a huge block of text and then a long sequence of photos, consider more of a flow where you weave together text and image so that each is reinforcing the other and helping to advance your narrative.

Remember to cite all the sources you use. Please use the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) as your reference guide . StoryMaps provides a place for citations at the conclusion of your project.

#### Resources

[StoryMaps through MIT](#)

[Chicago Manual of Style](#)



[StoryMaps through MIT](#)

