

## **Lesson Plan / Content Outline For GEEK 101 Presentation on "Alternative Historical Fantasy (Steam Punk Studies)"**

One of the GEEK genres students will learn about is "STEAM PUNK", which is an example of "Alternative Historical Fantasy". Our Alternative Historical Fantasy presentation, will be hosted by an Author, Inventor, Film Maker, and Costume Designer who all work in the STEAM PUNK genre.

Alternative Historical Fantasy is very much grounded in reality, but never the less focuses its attention on "WHAT IF" concepts of reality. STEAM PUNK is set around the Victorian Era, and fixates a great deal on technology, so its stories explore concepts such as

"What would the world have been like if Nikola Tesla had succeeded in inventing the Television back in the 1800's?"

"What if steam powered airships had been a part of everyday life during the era of Abraham Lincoln?"

"What if the computer had been invented 100 years earlier?"

STEAM PUNK takes these WHAT IF ideas, and fashions stories around them.

STEAM PUNK is not only a fascinating genre, but it also lends itself beautifully to opening up exploration of the WHAT IF questions in our own day, and in the future.

In preparation to this presentation, teachers are encouraged lead a class discussion on different WHAT IF scenarios from history, and to have each student draw a picture of their own, that illustrates an Alternative Historical concept.

Teachers who so wish it, may submit their classes drawings to the Memphis Comic and Fantasy Convention for display at the convention and at the GEEK 101 field trips.

(Teachers submitting artwork are asked to please have students include a brief written explanation of their artwork, so that it can be posted beneath the drawing. )