***To the Teacher/Facilitator***

I selected the PATCO strike as subject of an interactive historical exercise for a group of federal union stewards. Every year I am asked to teach 2-4 hours of history to this group, and I always use popular education techniques to do it. I searched for some curriculum on federal or at least public sector workers’ history and found nothing. However, I had recently read Joe McCartin’s book on PATCO called *Collision Course*, which is rich in lessons for union leaders and issues that can stimulate great debate, so I decided to develop this curriculum on PATCO.

Its methodology is inspired by *The Power in Our Hands*; *A Curriculum on the History of Work and Workers in the United States* by Bill Bigelow and Norm Diamond. The content is drawn from several books, articles and video on the PATCO strike cited in the student handout as well as a general understanding of labor history which I have taught for several decades both to union members and university students.

***Preparation***

Of course the more you can read, the better, but if your time is limited, I suggest you at minimum read the chapter on the PATCO strike in Eric Loomis’ *A History of America in Ten Strikes* and watch the 24 minute Anthem video *The Strike that Broke Unions - Reagan vs. PATCO* // <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1210034139397144>.

The handouts for participants include:

1. The seven-page The PATCO Strike Debacle; Who Was Responsible?
2. Each of the three teams should receive a pack of 45 clues. I have laid the clues out for printing on Avery 8164 labels 3⅓ x 4 inches. I recommend that you print them and stick each onto 3x5 index cards. You’ll need 135 cards.

Your preparation set-up should include a projector, screen and speakers for the video, which will need an internet connection. There is also a power point presentation, which you can use for the introduction.

***Your Role***

You function as lecturer, facilitator and coach in this exercise, presenting the introduction and background, facilitating the trial and asking questions of the accused that others have not asked and, as the three groups prepare their defense, dropping in on them, helping with any confusion and coaching them to develop their arguments and organize themselves. I am available to coach you or just answer any questions. Contact me at [ancelj@umkc.edu](mailto:ancelj@umkc.edu) or 816-835-4745

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