

Project Information

<p>Project Title:</p>	<p>The Cost of Discovery: Modeling Cross-Curricular Ethics Through the Story of Henrietta Lacks</p>
<p>What is the problem that will be addressed?</p>	<p>At the high school level, instruction is typically organized by subject area. Although real-world issues naturally span disciplines, there is limited structural modeling that demonstrates how cross-curricular units can be intentionally designed without collapsing disciplinary boundaries.</p> <p>Cross-disciplinary collaboration is often encouraged in professional development, yet educators rarely see concise, analyzable examples of how such units are architected. Without clear modeling, attempts at integration can unintentionally expand scope, blur subject identities, or increase planning demands.</p> <p>This project addresses the lack of bounded, structurally explicit examples of cross-curricular unit design. Using the story of Henrietta Lacks as a shared anchor, the module demonstrates how alignment can be achieved across science, mathematics, history, and English language arts while preserving disciplinary integrity.</p>
<p>Project Description:</p>	<p>This project involves designing and developing a 15 to 20-minute, fully asynchronous professional learning module for high school educators and instructional designers. The module presents a modeled cross-curricular lesson arc centered on the story of Henrietta Lacks. Learners first move through the case as a worked example. They then examine how the unit is intentionally structured to support alignment across disciplines without merging content areas.</p> <p>The experience does not require implementation or curriculum creation. Instead, it focuses on analyzing structural decisions such as anchor selection, scope control, intentional inclusions, and disciplinary boundaries.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the module is to make cross-curricular architecture visible and analyzable within a realistic professional learning timeframe.</p>

Roles and Responsibilities

<p>Learning Designer:</p>	<p>Marissa Atchison Responsible for instructional design, content development, assessment development, media creation, and full module construction in Articulate Storyline 360.</p>
<p>Critical Project Stakeholders:</p>	<p>High school educators across core disciplines, instructional designers, and curriculum developers. High school educators across core disciplines and instructional designers who support secondary education. Stakeholders inform the design through shared instructional realities, including pacing constraints, standards alignment, subject-area accountability, and limited collaborative planning time.</p>
<p>Subject Matter Experts:</p>	<p>Marissa Atchison High school science educator with more than 13 years of experience, including instruction related to the story of Henrietta Lacks. Provides disciplinary accuracy and practitioner insight into how cross-disciplinary instruction functions within secondary classrooms</p>
<p>Other Contributors:</p>	<p>None Marissa Atchison, the learning designer, will complete all instructional design, content development, and media creation.</p>

Preliminary Project Details

<p>Target Audience:</p>	<p>High school educators across core disciplines</p> <p>Instructional designers supporting secondary instruction</p>
<p>Project Goal:</p>	<p>The goal of this project is to model a structured example of cross-curricular unit design and make its architectural decisions visible for analysis.</p> <p>Using the story of Henrietta Lacks as a shared anchor, the module illustrates how multiple disciplines can engage the same case through distinct lenses while maintaining clearly defined boundaries.</p> <p>The emphasis remains on analyzing structural features rather than teaching disciplinary content or requiring implementation.</p>
<p>LMS Platform or Authoring Tool to be Used:</p>	<p>Articulate Storyline 360</p>
<p>Description of Deliverables:</p>	<p>The final deliverable is a fully asynchronous, self-paced professional learning module developed in Articulate Storyline 360.</p> <p>Estimated completion time is 15 to 20 minutes.</p> <p>The module is organized into three scenes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Module Introduction 2. Enter the Case 3. Examine the Architecture <p>The experience includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two segmented instructional videos introducing the shared anchor and its broader implications • A non-graded reflective checkpoint • A mastery-based multiple-choice assessment • A variable-driven classification activity requiring accurate identification of structural inclusions and scope extensions • Immediate feedback aligned to structural reasoning <p>Progression is mastery-based where appropriate. Learners must correctly complete required assessments before advancing.</p>

The module is fully self-guided and does not require instructor facilitation, discussion, or independent curriculum development.

Navigation is linear and clearly structured. Visual design choices in layout, typography, and pacing are intentionally applied to reduce cognitive load and support educators working within limited time blocks.

Instructional Media

Two self-produced segmented instructional videos are embedded within the module:

1. Shared Anchor Overview
2. Impact and Accountability

Combined runtime is approximately seven to eight minutes. Both videos are integrated within Storyline using layered sequencing and automatic progression to maintain narrative continuity.

Supporting Design Artifacts

The following artifacts will be submitted to document the design process:

- Final Project Plan
- Design Document
- Final Storyboard

The completed module will be publicly accessible. A separate documentation file will record copyright permissions for all visual assets used.