Amistad America
The Amistad Incident of 1839
The Building of the schooner in Mystic CT

Construction was completed in March 2000 at Mystic Seaport
Freedom Tour

- Education of both school groups and the general public
- The Easter Seaboard in 2001
- The Gulf Coast in 2002
The balancing act

- Sailing a high Maintenance schooner
- Re-telling a story that involves the victimization of African Americans: The story of slavery
- Keeping the crew up beat in a challenging situation
- Maintain high levels of standard
Question

How does the Crew of Amistad interpret the mission of the schooner? Does their previous experience effect this interpretation?

What impressions does Amistad make on the public through its port visits and day sails? Are these impressions similar to the crews’
Methodology

- Visit the ship in St. Petersburg
- Survey the Public
- Survey the Crew
- Go on public sails
- Observe the education program
- Try not to piss anyone off
Sample Questions from Public Survey

- What are your specific reasons for your visit today?
- What are your primary expectations from your visit to Amistad?
- Why do you think Amistad came to St. Petersburg?
- What do you think the mission of Amistad is?
Sample Questions from Crew Survey

- What are your specific reasons for working with Amistad
- Do you have previous tall ship experience
- What are your expectations from your work? Have they been met?
- What is the mission of Amistad America? What is your role in this mission?
- Positive experience with a visitor? Negative experience?
The public can be divided into three different categories:
- The Generalists
- The Historians
- The Boaters
The Crew Survey

- The Crew was harder to put into categories
- The have been working as a team for four months
- HOWEVER, there was one difference

![Pie chart showing Tall Ship Experience Before Amistad. 62% answered Yes, and 38% answered No.](chart.png)
The Sailors, “Yes”

- Sailing is their primary reasons for working with Amistad
- The education component is secondary
- Are more objective when re-telling the story. Not as personal
The Interpreters, “No”

- Sailing is part of the reason they work for Amistad, but the historical significance plays a large role too.
- All are deckhands.
- Wish the education programming was better.
- Feel limited in their ability to effectively re-tell the story.
- Overall are happy with their experience.
Where does Amistad Go From Here

Amistad American is a young organization. It is doing an amazing task. However:

- Needs to improve its exhibit
- Hire an onboard officer who's primary job is the education initiative
- Continue to tour the country and facilitate discussions on race through the use of the schooner
I am DONE!!!