



RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Rights and responsibilities of citizenship have many implications for the study of US History and US Civics. The vodcast used in conjunction with this lesson features a historical example of extreme disrespect for the rights of another human being through the telling of the fate of Dewitt Rench, a young man in the wrong place at the wrong time during the early days of the Civil War. This vodcast is applicable for the teaching of Civil War history, Civics, and tolerance in general.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson plan middle school students will be able to:

- Explain how to be a good citizen
- Describe the sectional tensions facing the United States during the Civil War

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How do individuals demonstrate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life?
- How did increased tensions affect the lives of average Americans?

LEARNING STANDARDS

This lesson is compatible with:

- *Virginia Standard of Learning CE.4a-g*—The student will demonstrate knowledge of personal character traits that facilitate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life by practicing trustworthiness and honesty; practicing courtesy and respect for the rights of others; practicing responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance; practicing respect for the law; practicing patriotism; practicing decision making; practicing service to the school and/or local community.
- *Virginia Standard of Learning USI.9b*—The student will demonstrate knowledge of the causes, major events, and effects of the Civil War by explaining how the issues of states' rights and slavery increased sectional tensions.

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

Resources:

- *Deadly Suspicion* vodcast from the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Project
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPlfT6LEiEA&list=PL5A5B25F0BE8890FC&index=1&feature=plp_p_video

Equipment and Handouts:

- Equipment to screen vodcast (computer, project, etc.)

VODCAST DESCRIPTIONS

- *Deadly Suspicion*: By interpreting just one tragic instance, the students shared the tragic consequence that can happen when people judge another without knowing or trying to know the true story.

LESSON ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Vodcast Viewing: *Deadly Suspicion*: This vodcast lends itself to the study of Civics or Civil War sectional tensions. Students will watch the vodcast, *Deadly Suspicion*, which features the story a Dewitt Rench, a

southern sympathizer in a northern-sympathizing town who was attacked and murdered for his beliefs. Teacher will show students this video to introduce the theme of respect for others in a Civics discussion on rights and responsibilities of citizenship, or to introduce the topic of sectional tensions in the United States prior to the Civil War.

Activity 2

Creating a PSA: For this activity, students will create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the personal traits of good citizens. Teachers should examine the list of traits below and choose the traits that best support the lesson they are teaching, be it for Civics or History.

Step 1: Display and discuss examples of each trait with students.

Step 2: Explain to students that a PSA is a message in the public interest disseminated by the media without charge, with the objective of raising awareness, changing public attitudes and/or behavior towards a social issue.

Step 3: Ask students to choose one trait to illustrate and inform the public with via a PSA. Students should work with a partner or a small group.

Step 4: Ask students to create a billboard or poster illustrating the personal trait they have chosen. Alternatively, ask students to generate a storyboard for a filmed PSA.

Step 5 (optional): Have students film their PSA.

Step 6: Have students share their product with the class. If a PSA is filmed, share with a larger school audience.

Personal traits of good citizens

- Trustworthiness and honesty
- Courtesy and respect for the rights of others
- Responsibility, accountability, and self-reliance
- Respect for the law
- Patriotism
- Participation in the school and/or local community
- Participation in elections as an informed voter

Extending the Lesson

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's educational program, *Of the Student, By the Student, For the Student*®, offers additional student-created content on the Civil War at the YouTube channel "Take the Journey." <http://www.youtube.com/user/TakeTheJourney/videos?view=1>

Extended content includes student created vodcasts for:

- Battle of First Manassas
- Battle of Second Manassas
- Battle of Balls Bluff
- Harpers Ferry
- Battle of Antietam
- Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Battle of the Wilderness and the start of the Overland Campaign

For additional information on the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership's educational programs and resources, please contact us at:

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