



Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lesson Plan for Educators

Topic: U.S. Policy and Civil Activities

Lesson Title: Your Civic Responsibilities

Level: High School

Focus Statement: In a constitutional republic, productive civic engagement requires knowledge about the U.S. Constitution, other nation's systems and practices. Civics enables students not only to study how others participate, but also to practice participating and taking informed action for themselves.

Nebraska Education Standards:

Civics – Forms and Functions of Government:

SS HS.1.1 Analyze the foundation structures and functions of the United States government as well as local, state and international governments.

SS HS.1.1b Evaluate the structure of American Constitutional government.

SS HS.1.1c Analyze the functions of United States government and its outcomes.

SS HS.1.1h Analyze United States foreign policy.

Civics – Civic Participation:

SS HS.1.2 Demonstrate meaningful civic participation by analyzing local, state national, or international issues and policies.

SS HS.1.2a Investigate how individuals and groups can effectively use the structure and functions of various levels of government to shape policy.

SS HS.1.2b Analyze and communicate the significance and impacts of patriotic symbols, songs, holidays and activities in terms of historical, social, and cultural contexts.

SS HS.1.2c Engage and reflect on participation in civic activities.

SS HS.1.2e Demonstrate how individuals, groups, and the media check government practices.

SS HS.1.2f Analyze various media sources for accuracy and perspective.

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Lesson Objectives

- Students will familiarize themselves with the concepts of ‘separation of powers’, and ‘concurrent/enumerated/implied powers’.
- Students will research the U.S. Selective Service policy in force during the Vietnam war.
- Students will use available printed, film, and internet information about the types of civil disobedience, and protests that occurred in the U.S. during the Vietnam war.
- Students will use available printed, film, and internet information about the movies, artwork, songs, and military-supportive/non-supportive activities that were common in the U.S. during the Vietnam war.

Summary of Tasks/Actions

1. Present an evaluation of the constitutional meaning of the concepts of ‘separation of powers’ and ‘concurrent/enumerated/implied powers’ and what it meant to the functions of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of government during the Vietnam war.
2. Present an analysis of the demographics of the military population including age, race, whether they were urban or rural, and their level of education. Research whether there were any male or female Nebraska celebrities who either left their pre-Vietnam-service life to serve, or became celebrities after serving.
3. Compare the civil disobedience, and protests of the Vietnam war years with the occurrences during World War I, World War II, Korean War, and the Gulf Wars.
4. Compile a list of actors, singers, artists, and activists who became famous for their work about and during Vietnam.

Materials/Equipment

- Objective
- Internet access
- Access to a copy of the U.S. Constitution
- Audio/visual equipment and screen
- Websites, books, articles, etc., describing U.S. society and activism during Vietnam war
- Demographic statistics for the Vietnam war years

References/Sources

- NVVM.org
- Smithsonian American Art Museum (<http://americanart.si.edu>)
- Vietnam War Facts Stats and Myths (<https://www.uswings.com>)
- The American War Library (<http://www.americanwarlibrary.com/vietnam>)
- Vietnam War Casualties (<https://www.militaryfactory.com>)
- The Media’s Role in Vietnam War (<https://thevietnamwar.info/media-role-vietnam-war>)