

Northwest History Consortium

Conscription: Crucial or Callous?

Elizabeth Campbell

11th Grade

National Standard

Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877) / Standard 2B

Standard 2: The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people.

Standard 2B: The student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and homefront.

BACKGROUND

Wartime drafts have long been a part of US history. From the Civil War to Vietnam, our leaders have found reason to supplement volunteer troops with conscripted soldiers.

SCENARIO

In a recent interview, the Vice President of the United States referenced an internet rumor regarding the reinstatement of the draft. The rumor, which began circulating during President Bush's terms in office, is just that. Nevertheless, a concerned watchdog group—Concerned Citizens for Peace (CCP)—wants a thorough investigation into the matter.

TASK

The CCP has requested you, along with several of your colleagues, take a look at the history of conscription in the United States. Strategic, political, and social components and/or consequences of the US draft policy are particular points of concern. Be prepared to meet with the CCP and brief them on the possibility of draft reinstatement by the end of the week.

RESOURCES (THESE ARE STARTING POINTS!)

Books

Danzer, Gerald A. et al. The Americans. New York: McDougal-Littell, 2002.

Hakim, Joy. A History of US: War, Terrible War. Vol. 6. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Internet

Ellison, Dave. "The Civil War Draft in Plover and Stevens Point: A Study in Efforts, Attitudes, Frustrations, and Results." Portage County Historical Society of Wisconsin Online Archives (Malcolm Rosholt Online Archives. 2004 – 2010. University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, WI. 15 June 2009 <<http://www.pchswi.org/archives/misc/cwdraft.html>>.

"Harper's Weekly Cartoon Database (HarpWeek: Explore History)." HarpWeek (Harper's Weekly). ©1998 – 2010. New York, NY. 6 April 2010 <<http://www.harpweek.com/default.asp>>.

Northwest History Consortium

Conscription: Crucial or Callous?

“How to Escape the Draft.” 1 Aug. 1863. HarpWeek (Harper’s Weekly). ©1998 – 2010. New York, NY. 6 April 2010 <<http://www.harpweek.com/09Cartoon/BrowseByDateCartoon.asp?Month=August&Date=1>>.

“The Recruiting Business.” 23 Jan. 1864. HarpWeek (Harper’s Weekly). ©1998 – 2010. New York, NY. 6 April 2010 <<http://www.harpweek.com/09Cartoon/BrowseByDateCartoon.asp?Month=January&Date=23>>.

“Selective Service System.” 8 March 2010. USA Government (Selective Service). Palatine, IL. 6 April 2010 <<http://www.sss.gov/>>.

Schubert, Frank N. “Mobilization in World War II” from *CMH Pub 72-32*. U.S. Army Center of Military History. 5 April 2010. Washington, DC. 6 April 2010 <<http://www.history.army.mil/documents/mobpam.htm>>.

Shapiro, Alan. “Should there be a Draft? A DBQ and Background Reading.” Teachable Moment: Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility. 2010. New York, NY. 16 June 2009 <<http://www.teachablemoment.org/high/draft.html>>.

ASSESSMENT

Rubric

Student presentations evaluated on the following criteria:

- Historical Accuracy
- Synthesis of Information
- Creativity
- Coherence

Postwrite - will assess student knowledge gained above and beyond the group presentation

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

Campbell, Elizabeth. “Conscription: Crucial or Callous?” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 6 April 2010 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/5.2B_.Campbell.11.pdf>.

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 21 May 2009 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards5>>.