

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Assessing Attitudes about the Vietnam War

Grade- 8

Length of class period-45 minutes

Inquiry-Identify viewpoints of supporters and protesters of the Vietnam War using two popular songs of the 1960s.

Objectives-Students will compare opposing viewpoints of a historical event
Students will examine primary sources and determine the validity of the viewpoint they express
Students will recognize the different attitudes toward the war that are expressed

Materials

-The lyrics to 2 songs popular in the 60s:-“The Ballad of the Green Berets” by Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler and “I-Feel-Like-I’m-Fixin’ -to-Die Rag” by Joe McDonald

Activities

Students will read the lyrics to both songs, (and listened to them, if possible) and compare the tone and message in each. They will examine the lyrics and determine the viewpoint each represents. They will identify at least three arguments presented in each song in a T Chart. They will then discuss these and determine which position they might have identified with if they had lived at that time and write that position in a short essay.

Assessment

Monitor discussion and read T Chart and essay.

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards-

Compare information about the same event using a variety of primary sources
Justify why people might have different points of view on a historical or contemporary issue