

Lesson Plan 1 ---3/18/03

Generalization: Political propaganda has been used by all governments and regimes. Although propaganda serves a certain purpose, time allows us to see the falsehoods perpetuated by different forms of media. Analysis of propaganda gives us a better perspective of issues from the related time periods and also from the news we receive today.

Topic: American Cold War Propaganda

Grade: 10

Time: 40 minutes

Assessment of student performance: Students will compile a list of different examples of propaganda from the video “Road to the Wall.” They will then be responsible for writing an analysis of the video and explanation of why they think it was or was not effective.

Key Words: Cold war, propaganda, red scare, communism

Instructional Objectives:

Standards

8.3.12B—Identify and evaluate primary documents, material artifacts and historic sites important in United States history from 1890 to present.

8.1.12B—Synthesize and evaluate historical sources.

8.1.12C—Evaluate historical interpretation of events.

Objectives:

Students will be able to interpret propaganda videos and explain how different aspects of the video are able to persuade viewers to believe certain things.

Lesson Development

Essential Questions: Why was this video made? Who is the intended audience? What is the message and is it successful? What is the purpose of propaganda? What are some other examples of political propaganda?

Anticipatory Set: I’ll ask the class to turn and look at WWII poster on the wall. We’ll discuss it’s meaning and purpose.

Procedure: After the anticipatory set I’ll explain the video that we will watch. I’ll explain the exact details of what I am looking for in their assignment and then we will watch the video. It should take up the entire period.

Closing/Summary : Since the video is long, there may not be time for a closing activity. The periods are only 40 minutes long.

Materials: Poster, whiteboard, tv, vcr