

The Greatest Sacrifice – A Veteran’s Day Lesson Plan

Subjects

World History, government and civics, U.S. Wars, geography

Estimated Time

One 45 minute class

Grade Level

Middle and High School

Warning Due to the large number of students who either have friends or family that serve in the armed forces please take care and be sensitive when discussing Veteran’s Day.

Warm Up

Start class by asking students what they know about Veteran’s Day and give them the AARP Quiz “How Much Do You Know About Veterans Day?” and then go over the answers.

Play “Bet You Didn’t Know- Veteran’s Day” from the History Channel for students.

Main Activity

Background on U.S. Wars

Share the interactive timeline with students and watch videos associated with U.S. Wars. You may choose the wars your class knows the least about or play just what you have time for.

Issues Facing U.S. Veteran’s Today

As a class brain storm the risks and benefits of being a soldier today and write answers on the board. Let the class know that they are going to take a closer look at some of the issues that veteran’s face today and how these challenges are being treated.

Read to students-

With new medical and life-saving technology more troops are surviving traumatic injuries that would have sealed their fate just decades ago. The effects of the increase in soldiers dealing with severe injuries such as losing limbs, traumatic brain injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has taxed the Veteran’s Administration (V.A.) at unprecedented levels leaving response time to disability claims anywhere from months to years. Further, both an increase in an aging veteran population as well as female veterans brings new challenges to the V.A. Let’s look more in depth at the issues facing today’s veterans.

Special Issues for Today's Veterans:

- Waiting for benefits
 - [Click here](#) to watch the video clip “Veterans' Disability Delayed” <http://bit.ly/17UaLVV>.
 - Read the Center for Investigative Reporting article “For Disabled Veterans awaiting Benefits Decisions, Location Matters” by Aaron Glantz <http://bit.ly/WY7bcA>
 - Explore the [accompanying interactive map](#) <http://bit.ly/WY7bcA> and pass out worksheet to students.

- How phantom limbs are successfully being treated today
 - [Click here](#) to watch TED Talk by VS Ramachandran <http://bit.ly/qNzY5>

- Unique challenges that women veterans face
 - [Click here](#) to watch PBS NewsHour Report “Women Veterans Face Unique Obstacles, Needs” <http://to.pbs.org/h2QWBSPSTD>

Writing Prompts:

Write an argument to either support or reject claims that veterans today face challenges that veterans in the past did not using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Choose on of the wars that were featured on the interactive timeline and write three short narrative-snap shots including one day in the life of that veteran before, during, and after the war using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Common Core Standards:

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1** Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1** Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.3** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.7** Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.7** Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-10.2** Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2** Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.