

Lesson Plan on the Korean War Film Review

Introduction: In this activity, students will critique a film and evaluate it's usefulness in studying the Korean War.

Illinois Learning Standards Addressed:

16.A.5a Analyze historical and contemporary developments using methods of historical inquiry (pose questions, collect and analyze data, make and support inferences with evidence, report findings).

16.A.4b Compare competing historical interpretations of an event.

16.A.3c Identify the differences between historical fact and interpretation.

16.B.5b (W) Describe how tensions in the modern world are affected by different political ideologies including democracy and totalitarianism.

16.C.4b (W) Compare socialism and communism in Europe, America, Asia and Africa after 1815 CE.

(Source: http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils.social_science/word/goal16.doc)

Objectives:

1. Know what the Korean War was about.
(Answer who, what, when, where, and why.)
2. Know the types of films produced about the Korean War.
(See Appendix D in *Korean War in Filmography* by Robert J. Lentz)
3. Know when certain films on Korean War were created.
4. Know the purpose of certain films on the war.
5. Know how films can be a useful tool when studying a historical event.

In the Classroom:

Have each student chose a film from the list in Appendix C (in *Korean War in Filmography* by Robert J. Lentz) under High Historical Accuracy Level. There are 18 films and depending on the size of the class, two (2) students may choose the same film. Have the students view the film and write a film review addressing the following questions:

1. When was the film made?
2. Was the film you viewed accurate? Were the events, dates, locations, and people true or made up for entertainment purposes?
3. What was the tone of the movie? Was it sad, serious, comedic, patriotic, or any other tone you can think of?
4. Who were the main characters? How were they portrayed?
5. Did you enjoy the film? Would you recommend it to others as a tool for studying the Korean War or should the film be viewed for entertainment? Thumbs up or thumbs down?
6. What would make this film better, if anything?

The film review should be between 3-4 pages in length. If possible, have students show a portion (1-2 minutes) of the film they feel is the most historically accurate. Have the students get in groups of four and discuss their film review.

At the library:

Have students search for books relating to their film topic on the Korean War (ex. If their film was on a specific branch of the military, have them look up that branch and their role in the Korean War). Have them determine the accuracy of the film by locating relevant information in books, magazines, or any other library resource they can locate. Have them complete the chart so that they can view their comparisons.

Resources at the Pritzker Military Library, also available through interlibrary loan:

Lentz, Robert J. *Korean War Filmography*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company Inc., Publishers. 2003.
Call number: DS 918.16.L46 2003

West, Philip. *Remembering the "Forgotten War": the Korean War through Literature and Art*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. 2001.
Call number: PL957.5 .K67 R46 2001

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