

1960's

Introduction

This unit emphasizes writing and critical thinking. There are basically three types of activities. The news stories, writing exercises, and telegrams require students to evaluate, prioritize and write about historical events. They must **use** the information rather than just passively memorizing it.

The chronology and data analysis activities require students to detect trends and draw conclusions.

The viewpoints activities present different views of the same event. The critical thinking exercises that accompany these units require the students to evaluate the information.

Many of the activities deal with popular news stories of the decade that are usually not covered in textbooks.

Creative Activities for Teaching Critical Thinking and Writing U.S. History: The 20th Century

There are nine units in this series.

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- SS141 1910's
- SS142 1920's
- SS143 1930's
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The 1960's

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Directions

During the late 1960's students began to protest on college campuses. In Berkeley (University of California) students demonstrated in favor of free speech and against military contractors recruiting students for jobs, at San Francisco State students struck in favor of having more minority students on campus and a minority studies department; at Columbia University students took control of campus buildings to protest the college engaging in military research.

Using the information below, write a news story about the event. Use the inverted pyramid approach putting the important information first and the least important last. If you quote someone use quotation marks and identify the source. The events described below are fictional but typical of the time.



Interview with student leader, Joseph Schlitz

Interviewer: How long do you intend to keep up the occupation?

Schlitz: As long as it takes to get the administration to listen to us.

Interviewer: How many students are in the building?

Schlitz: 200.

Interviewer: The president says he is willing to talk.

Schlitz: We don't want talk, we want action. We are willing to negotiate.

Interviewer: What if the president carries out his threat to have the students arrested?

Schlitz: We have all these students out here in support. They will try to block the police from entering the building.

Interviewer: How many do you think are out here?

Schlitz: About 1,000. We have a lot of support on campus.

Interview with student protestor

Interviewer: How long have you been out here demonstrating?

Student: Two days.

Interviewer: Why are you demonstrating?

Student: Because this school has a fascist administration. They're racist, too.

Interviewer: What do you mean by fascist?

Student: They allow these military recruiters on campus and they do nothing to help the poor. That's what we want, a school with a social conscience.

Interviewer: Are you willing to go to jail?

Student: Whatever it takes.

Press Release from the President of the University, Dr. Joseph Campbell.

April 6, 1969

From: Dr. Joseph Campbell, President of Moreland State College

The University does not intend to negotiate with student radicals who are occupying the Administration Building. We are prepared to meet with students to discuss their concerns but not until the occupation ends. The students occupying the Administration Building are engaged in an illegal act – trespassing.

We are giving them 24 hours to end their occupation or we will have them arrested for trespassing and expell the students from school.

Flyer issued by the Students for Social Change

We appeal to all students of Moreland State to keep demonstrating in front of the Administration Building to support the students who have occupied the building.

We intend to occupy the building until the administration is willing to negotiate.

Moreland State is not a place of learning, but a tool of the military-industrial complex and our racist society.

Our demands are simple. No more military recruiters on campus, a 20% increase in minority enrollment and the creation of a new department for peace and social change.

Support your brothers and sisters. Come to the demonstration.

Interview with Dr. Collin Woods, Vice-president of the University.

Interviewer: Is the administration really prepared to arrest the students?

Woods: Yes. We don't have much choice. Governor Reynolds is insisting upon it.

Interviewer: Do you think the students have much support?

Woods: No. All we have out here is a radical group, a few hundred. Remember, we have 30,000 students on this campus and most just want an education.

Interviewer: Are classes taking place?

Woods: In most cases. The problem is that no paperwork is getting processed because the students are in the administration building. So we can't let this go on. They've been in there two days, now.

Interviewer: What about the student demands?

Woods: We're willing to talk, but remember this is a school. People come here to get an education so they can get a job. We can't say that only certain kinds of businesses can come on campus.

Interviewer: What about the demands for more minority students?

Woods: We have no rules that keep them out. If they meet our grade requirements, they can enroll. The radicals want us to let anyone in. We can't do that.