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Making Meaning of May 4 **K-12 Teaching Plan**

Name of Educator: Christopher M. Belch

Educator's Teaching Plan Number & Title: Project 19, "Kent State Lesson Plan"

Level of Students for Educator's Teaching Plan: 10-12 grade

Subject Area for Educator's Teaching Plan: US History, Civics, European History

Educator's State: Michigan

Description of Educator's Teaching Plan: US Supreme Court decisions affecting pre-college student rights; one most important to each student. May 4: Doug Wrentmore interview; why didn't students leave area?; who was responsible? May 4 meaning for citizens & dissenters today. Activities incl. creating late night talk show and a debate.

This educational teaching plan was developed during Kent State University's Summer 2021 workshop titled Making Meaning of May 4: The 1970 Kent State Shootings in US History. The workshop was supported by Kent State and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant program titled *Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for School Teachers*.

This teaching plan is shared to promote understanding of the Kent State shootings on May 4, 1970; enhance humanities education across the disciplines; and illustrate the meaning of May 4 for today.

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Kent State

Lesson Plan

Themes

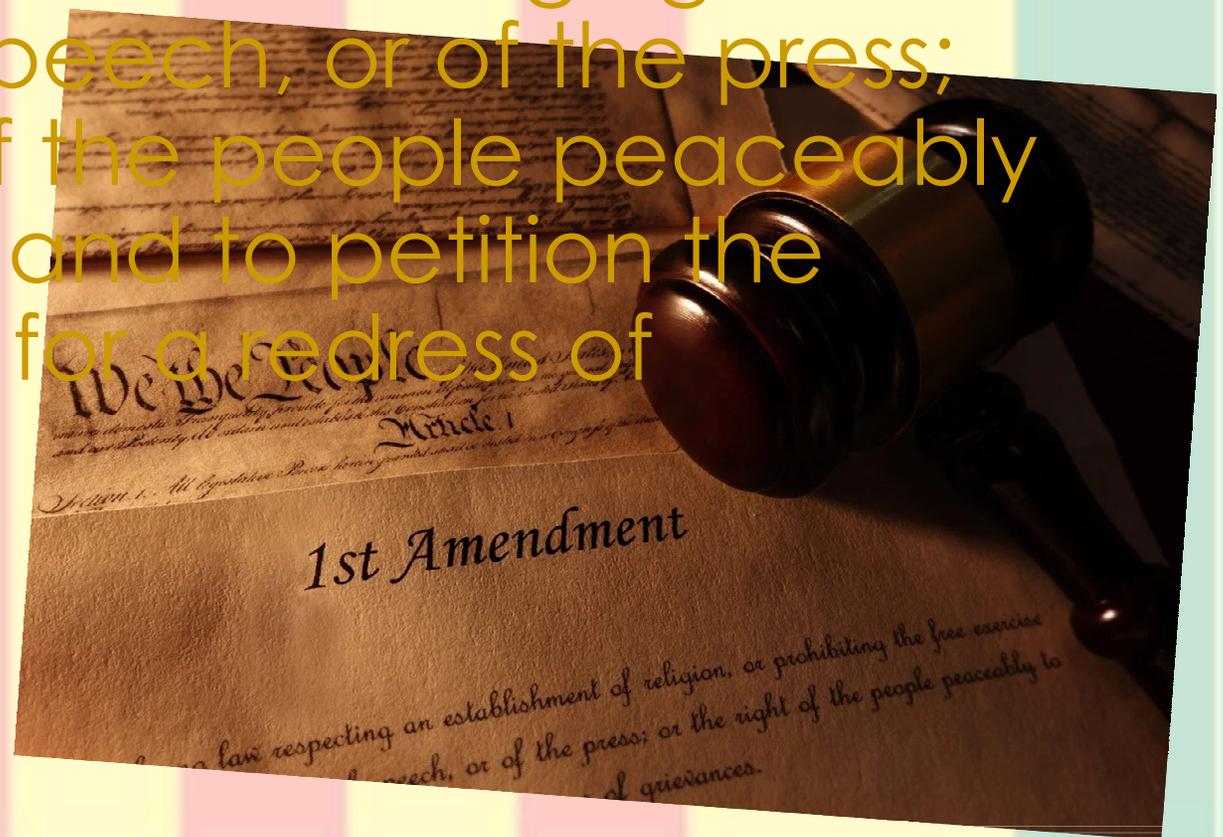
- Driving Questions:
 - Why didn't the students disperse when confronted by the National Guard?
 - Who was most responsible for the attack – the National Guard or students?
 - How can the lessons we learned during the Kent State protests apply to student protest today?



Day 1: First Amendment

First Amendment

- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



Worksheet

First Amendment Landmark Cases Worksheet

Landmark Cases

- Research the following cases:
 - West Virginia State Board of Education vs. Barnette (1943)
 - Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)
 - Bethel School District v. Fraser (1985)
 - Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier (1988)
 - Morse v. Frederick (2007)

Worksheet

First Amendment Landmark Cases – Groupwork Analysis Worksheet

Class Discussion

- Which case does your group think is most relevant to your lives today? List the case and explain your rationale.**
- Which case do you think is the least important? List the case and explain your rationale.**

Class Discussion

- ***Pick a case in which you disagree with the Supreme Court's decision. Explain what you think they got wrong and why.***
- **Which case do you think will have the greatest impact on society today? List the case and explain your rationale.**

Limits in Schools

- Schools May Limit Free Speech IF:
 - It creates a substantial disruption (Tinker)
 - It is vulgar or lewd (Fraser)
 - It advocates illegal drug use (Morse)
 - Their Censorship is viewpoint neutral and based on a reasonable educational justification (Hazelwood)



Day 2: The Kent State Incident

War in Cambodia (1970)

- Nixon Announces
Entering Cambodia

[Time cover – The New War:
Will Nixon's Gamble Work?]

[Map - US Bombing of
Cambodia: All 115,273
Targets – Oct. 4, 1965 to Aug.
15, 1973]

May 1st, 1970

■ Burying the Constitution

■ Symbolized: Murder of the Constitution

~~10-146~~
10-146
10-91

[Photo – Burial of the US Constitution, May 1, 1970]

BURY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

President Nixon has flagrantly violated our constitutional rights by invading a sovereign nation without a declaration of war by Congress. Nixon has garnered all governmental power to the executive and committed us to a course of national barbarity; a crime that we will never be able to shed. He has been motivated only by his own personal whims. He has neither consulted Congress or the citizens of the United States. In essence he has usurped power in a fashion not dissimilar to a coup d'etat. President Nixon has murdered the Constitution and made a mockery of his claims to represent law and order. In recognition of the deceased we will commit the Constitution to the earth at . . .

12:00 NOON TODAY

ON THE COMMONS IN FRONT OF THE VICTORY BELL

World Historians Opposed to Racism and Exploitation

May 1st, 1970

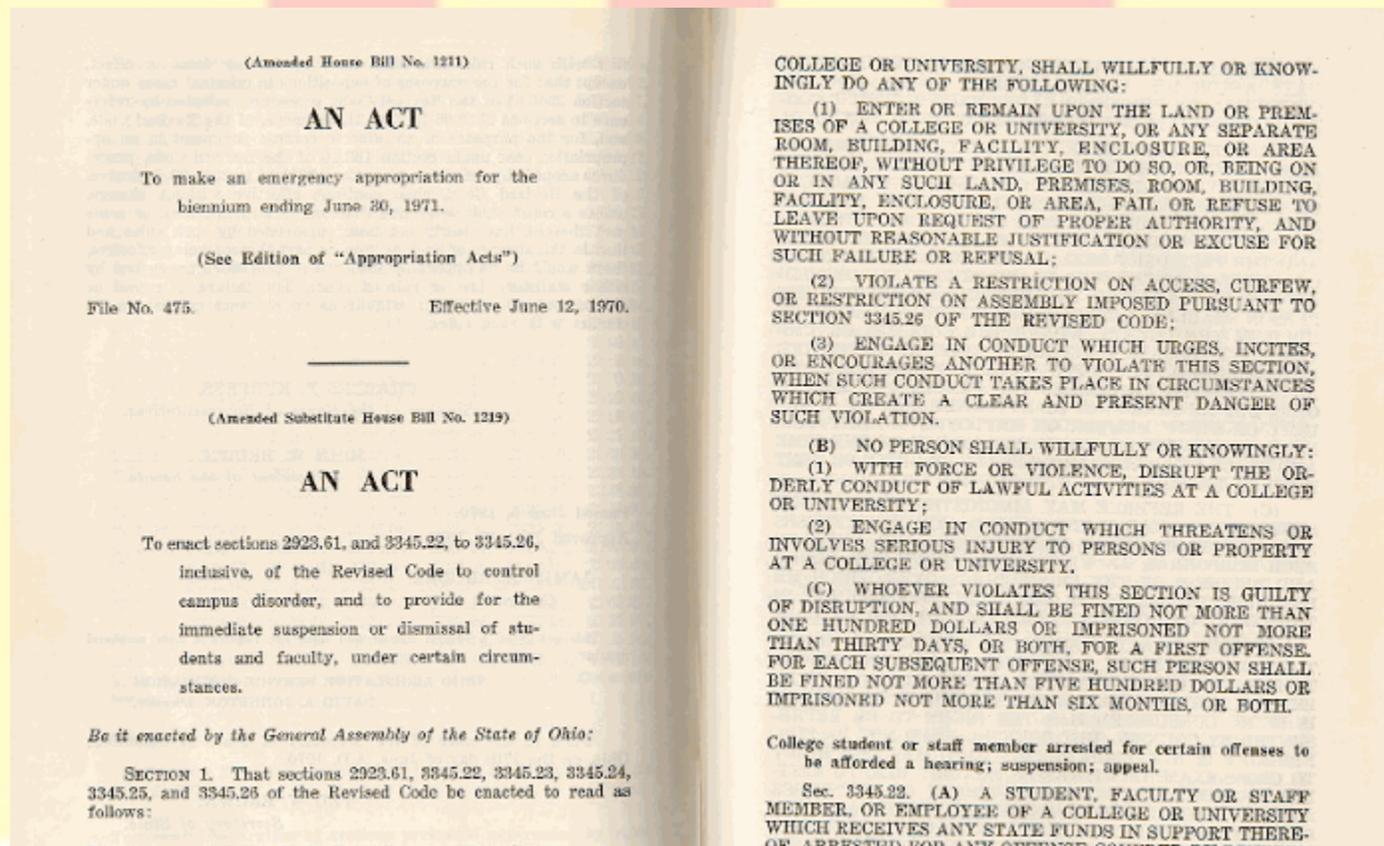
- Riots in Downtown Kent
 - Some Broken Windows
 - Police Dispersed the Crowd
 - Kent Mayor
 - Heard rumors of a radical plot
 - Declared a state of emergency
 - Telephoned the governor in Columbus for assistance.
 - A National Guard officer was immediately dispatched.
 - Bars were closed by local authorities

May 2nd, 1970

- Downtown Cleanup
 - Newspaper Article?

May 3rd, 1970

- Ohio Riot Act
 - Crowd Asked to Disperse
 - Tear gas Fired



a

■ Burning of ROTC Building

[Two photos – Burned ROTC Building, May 1970]

May 4th, 1970

- Resumption of Classes
 - Gathering on the Commons
 - Guard Enters with Fixed Bayonets

[Photo – Two students standing near where tear gas canisters landed]

Video

- Clips from:
 - [Documentary showing what was happening on May 4, 1970, on the site]
 - May 4th Augumented Reality - <https://may4thxr.kent.edu/index.html>
 - Order to Fire - <https://archive.wksu.org/news/story/20800>
 - Photos - <https://www.beaconjournal.com/photogallery/OH/20200501/NEWS/501009998/PH/1>
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2021/04/19/girl-kent-state-photo-lifelong-burden-being-national-symbol/>

Kent State Protests

[Photo – KSU protest]

Video

- Student Interview
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVCoNEJCokE>

Kent State Protests (1970)

■ Results

- 4 Dead
- 9 Wounded

[Three images –

1. Jeff Miller after being killed, May 4, 1970
2. LIFE cover, May 1970
3. Student strike photo following Kent State Shootings, Louisiana State University]



Day 3: Social Movements Today

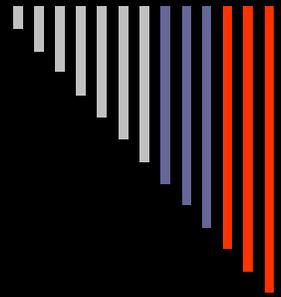
Class Discussion

- Black Lives Matters
- Pride Movement

Article

“What Black Lives Matter Demonstrators Can Learn from Civil Rights Protests of the Past”

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-blm-civil-rights-protest-history/id/2001018483/>



Day 4-7: Interview

Activity

May 4th

Late Night Talk Show

Presentation



Day 8: Debate

Topics to Consider

- Could the shootings on the campus of Kent State been prevented?
- Who was most responsible for the events of May 4th?
- Is May 4th relevant today?
 - (Hint: Think about current protest movements and explain what we can learn from May 4th.)

Worksheet

Kent State Briefing Notes



End