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

Name of Educator: Trina Poole

Educator's Teaching Plan Number & Title: Project 16, "Is Dissent a Crime?"

Level of Students for Educator's Teaching Plan: 11-12 grades

Subject Area for Educator's Teaching Plan: AP US Government and Politics

Educator's State: Ohio

Description of Educator's Teaching Plan: *Is dissent a crime?* Students respond via blackout poetry from documents including *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*; US Supreme Court decisions on student free speech rights; quantified costs; cultural artifacts; current events; and evidence of the May 4 site & its educational installations.

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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AP US Government and Politics
Unit 3 Civil Rights and Liberties

Is Dissent a Crime?

[Photo - Alan Canfora with protest flag, May 4, 1970]

Essential Questions from the AP Framework:

1. To what extent does the US Constitution and its amendments protect against undue government infringement on essential liberties and from invidious discrimination?
2. How have US Supreme Court rulings defined civil liberties and civil rights?

Strand Covered Liberty and Order with Learning Standards:

1. The Supreme Court has held that symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment.
2. Efforts to balance social order and individual freedom are reflected in interpretations of the First Amendment including limits on speech and bolstering freedom of the press.

Vocabulary:

Federalism	Participatory Democracy	Political Efficacy
Individualism	Activism	Contest/Challenge
Rule of Law	Factions	Others?
Linkage Institution	Advocacy	

In our quest to answer the question of ‘Is Dissent a Crime’ please use the following as a framework as you look to answer ‘Is Dissent a Crime?’.

Foundational Documents:

[Photo - Still from film (unidentified)]

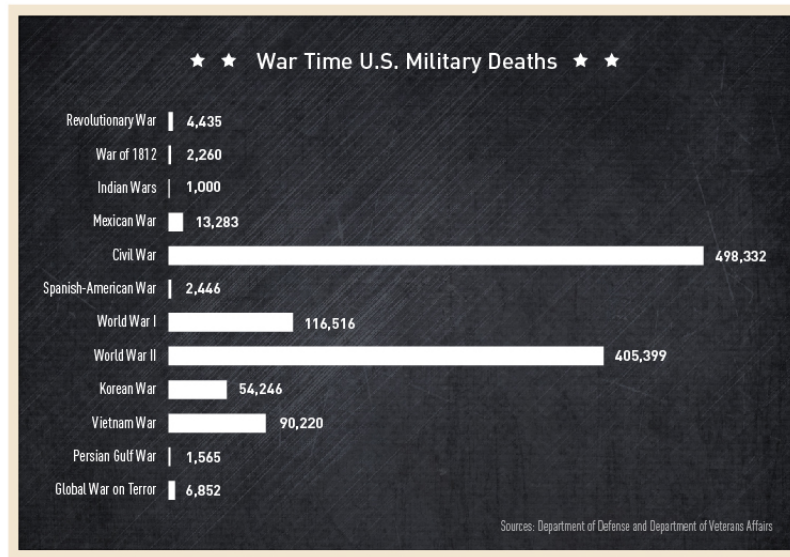
- Required Docs: *Declaration of Independence*, *Brutus I*, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*
- Where do we see dissent? Take an excerpt of one required document and create a piece of black out poetry that demonstrates dissent in our documents.
- Is Dissent a Crime? Do you have an answer or path to an answer?

Supreme Court Cases:

[Photo - Protestors with sign that reads "END THE WAR NOW! BRING THE TROOPS HOME"]

- Required Case: *Tinker v Des Moines*
- Suggestions: *WVa v Barnett*, *Bethel v Fraser*, *Morse v Frederick*, *Hazelwood v Kuhlmeier*
- Do a compare and contrast of the required case to a case of your choice. How is the constitution applied? Same? Different?
- Does the time period affect the ruling? How was dissent defined/interpreted? How did things change?
- Are there any powerful photos from the cases?

Quantitative Analysis:



- Is there a cost of dissent? Can we quantify and analyze dissent in some way?
- Find something that demonstrates in a quantitative way why people challenge laws/government/policy.
- Is Dissent a Crime? Do you have an answer or path to an answer?

Perspective:

[Political cartoon about the Kent State shootings]

- How do we see dissent? Find a cartoon, a piece of art, music clips, movie example, poetry, quotes that shows different perspectives of dissent.
- How can perspective influence our personal truth? How do the arts show us our history?
- Is Dissent a Crime? Do you have an answer or path to an answer?

Dissent in the Media:

[Newspaper op-ed on the Kent State shootings]

- Watch the news cycle for 24 hours. Find examples of dissent. What are the issues? Is it concentrated in one area? Protests, activists, riots? What is the news reporting?
- Thinking of current examples of activism and dissent, how it has affected America, government, public policy and private lives of citizens?
- Is Dissent a Crime? Do you have an answer or path to an answer?

Field Trip to KSU

- Guided Walking Tour
- May 4 Memorial
- May 4 Museum

Is Dissent a Crime? Do you have an answer or path to an answer?

Final Assessment

In a 3-5 page analysis, answer the original question: Is dissent a crime? What have you learned on this path to try to answer that question.

Using all of the work you have done, construct an analysis of what you have learned through this process. As supporting evidence, you are to use information gathered from vocabulary, foundational documents, Supreme Court case, quantitative analysis, perspective, media and field trip parts of this journey.

Resources:

Special Collections and Archives. Omeka RSS. (n.d.). https://omeka.library.kent.edu/special-collections/solr-search?q=dissent&facet=113_s%3A%22Campus%2BStrike%2Bpapers%22%2BAND%2B142_s%3A%22Student%2Bstrikes%22&sort=title&order=asc.

PoetryEverywherePTV. (2009, March 30). *Poetry Everywhere: "Facing It" by Yusef Komunyakaa*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90yxqIVrLP8>.

Crigger, M., & Santhanam, L. (2015, May 24). *How many Americans have died in U.S. wars?* PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/many-americans-died-u-s-wars>.

Tinker v. Des Moines: Protecting student free speech. National Constitution Center – constitutioncenter.org. (n.d.). <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/tinker-v-des-moines-protecting-student-free-speech>.