

The Story of President Truman's Foreign Policy Decisions

Teacher Name: Cheryl Witt **Grade Level(s):** High School **Course:** U.S. History

Description of Activity: Cooperative Learning, Technology Based, and Cross-Curricular

Rationale: About one-third of our student population is in the Visual Art Magnet program. This assignment allows me to tap into their interest as well as help the students who are not auditory learners. In addition, this is another way to re-enforce the material covered through class lectures and discussions as well as for me to assess what my students do know about the particular topics related to the Cold War during the Truman administration.

Required Time Frame: One week for completion of product. However, the students will be spending time prior to this project learning about the Truman administration and its decisions.

From where in the conference did I get the idea for this activity or assignment: Various Museum Displays; Speakers---Gail Halverson, Roger Miller, Michael Benson, Peter Hahn. A number of speakers throughout the week talked about how important it was to use primary source materials such as political cartoons, pictures, and the sort to get students to understand the story---to see the picture. Thus, the idea of creating story boards about topics related to Truman's foreign policy decisions.

Lesson Objectives:

- ◆ The student will understand the foreign policy decisions of the Truman administration.
- ◆ The student will understand the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs.

District, State, or National Performance and Knowledge Standards/Goals/Skills:

State of Kansas Civics-United States History Benchmark 3.2: The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of individuals, groups, ideas, developments, and turning points in the era of the Cold War to analyze the origins of the Cold War.

State of Kansas Civics-United States History Benchmark 3.3: The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of individuals, groups, ideas, developments, and turning points in the era of the Cold War to evaluate the foreign policies of Truman and Eisenhower.

Secondary Materials:

American Anthem: Modern American History. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2007.

Chapter 15.

Berlin Crisis Timeline. Truman Library Summer Teacher Institute Packet.

