

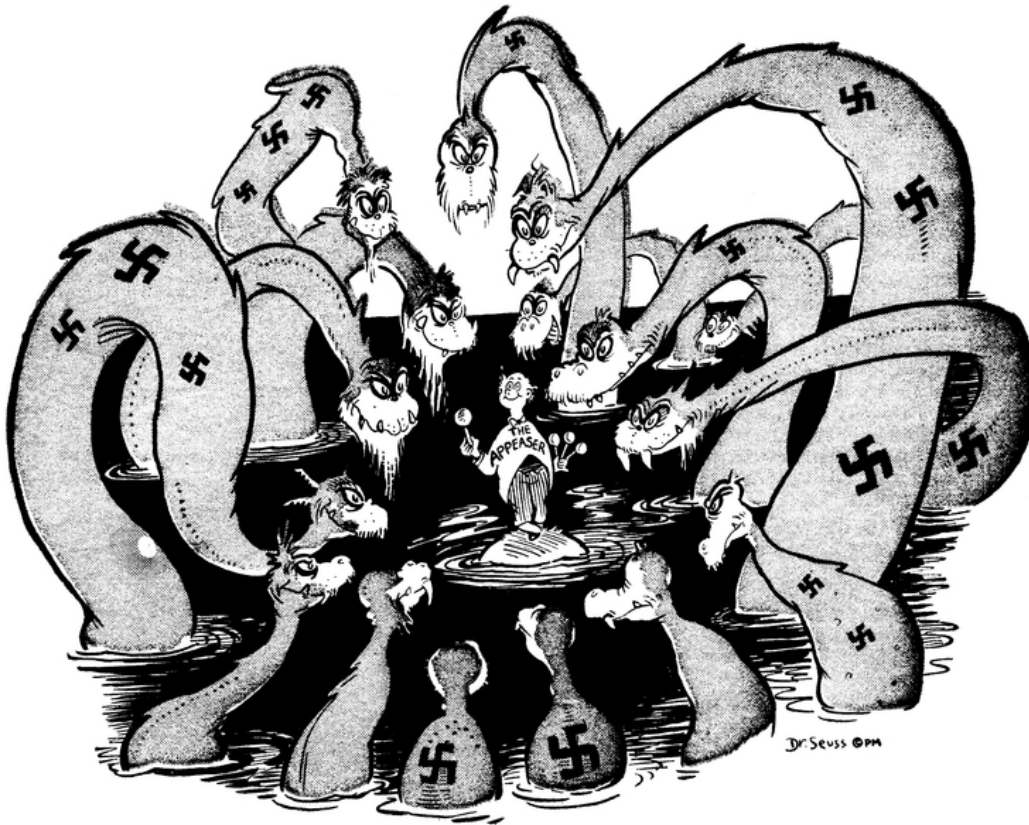
Name: _____

Purpose: to look at primary source documents from the American home front between 1941 and 1944.

Directions: read each of the documents carefully. Answer each of the questions in detailed fragments. While you are working on the documents, try to figure out what the essay question could be if there was an in-class essay.

Document 1

'Remember . . . One More Lollypop, and Then You All Go Home!'



Dr. Seuss, *PM Magazine*, August 13, 1941

1. What do you think will happen to the man in the middle when the lollypops are gone?
2. What was Dr. Seuss's opinion of American neutrality?

Document 2

In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear—which translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, State of the Union, January 6, 1941

1. What are the four freedoms?
2. The United States had not entered the war in January 1941. What can you infer about FDR's opinion of American neutrality? What text makes you think this?
3. What outside information do you bring to this document? (What do you already know about FDR, American neutrality, etc.?)

Document 3

The "V for Victory" sign is being displayed prominently in all so-called democratic countries which are fighting for victory over aggression, slavery and tyranny. If this V sign means that to those now engaged in this great conflict then let colored Americans adopt the double VV for a double victory This should not and would not lessen our efforts to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion; but should and would make us stronger to resist these evil forces which threaten us. America could become united as never before and become truly the home of democracy. V for victory over our enemies from without, the second V for victory over our enemies within. For surely those who perpetrate these ugly prejudices here are seeing to destroy our democratic form of government just as surely as the Axis forces. This should not and would not lessen our efforts to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion; but should and would make us stronger to resist these evil forces which threaten us. America could become united as never before and become truly the home of democracy.

James G. Thompson, letter to the editor,
Pittsburgh Courier, originally printed January 31, 1942;
reprinted April 11, 1942, page 5.

1. What is James G. Thompson proposing?
2. What was life like for black Americans in the United States during World War II?
3. What do you already know about the treatment of black Americans and the role of FDR and A Philip Randolph to create change for blacks during World War II?

Document 4

I do know one thing, this place was very segregated when I first come here. Oh, Los Angeles, you just couldn't go and sit down like you do now. You had certain places you went. You had to more or less stick to the restaurants and hotels where black people were. It wasn't until the war that it really opened up. 'Cause when I come out here it was awful, just like be in' in the South.... The war helped some people because they come back, they took trades, learned to do things. My brother come back and now he is very successful. I think the army really made a man out of him. He works at Rockwell in the missile department and he's a supervisor. He wouldn't have known what to do if he hadn't gone in the army.... They didn't mix the white and black in the war. But now it gives you a kind of independence because they felt that we gone off and fought, we should be equal. Everything started open in' up for us. We got a chance to go places we had never been able to go before....

Sarah Killingsworth, an African American who grew up in Tennessee, recounts her war experience in *The Good War, An Oral History Of World War II*.

1. How did life change for Sarah Killingsworth during and after World War II?
2. How did life change for her brother during and after World War II?

Document 5

On the very day you spoke there were 24 Mexican American boys accused of first degree murder. These 24 boys come from our neighborhood. In our neighborhood there are no recreation centers and the nearest movie is about a mile away, We have no place to play so the Police are always arresting us. That's why most of the boys on trial now have a record with the Police, from suspicion even up to robbery. A lot of the boys worked in Defense plants and have brothers in Australia fighting under Gen. MacArthur. Our folks work in some defense plants if they are citizens, but if they are not citizens they don't get jobs even though Mexico is in the war too. Our mothers and fathers would like to help in the Red Cross and Civilian Defense but they cannot because it's all in English. There is still a lot of discrimination in theaters and swimming pools and the Police are always arresting us and searching us by the hundreds when all we want to do is go into a dance or go swimming or just stand around and not bother anybody. They treat us like we are criminals just by being Mexicans or of Mexican descent. The newspapers have made us look like criminals too. They make fun of zoot suits and use the word "Mexicans" like it was a dirty word.

Letter from Youth Committee for the Defense of Mexican American Youth
to Vice President Henry A. Wallace, 1943

1. What was life like for Mexican Americans in Los Angeles during the war?
2. What do you already know about the treatment of Mexican Americans during the war? (Check your homework for Zoot Suit Riots.)

Document 6

A Message to Every Ration Book Holder

For your protection -- your Government has taken several important steps to eliminate unjustified increases in prices and to assure everyone a fair share of food.

Many essential foods have been rationed. Legal prices have been established on practically every food item in the family market basket.

Your Government is counting on you to help enforce the new regulations by making and keeping this simple pledge --

I will accept no rationed foods without giving ration stamps.

I will never pay more than legal prices.

Government Printing Office; order 16-34533-1; 1943

1. What is rationing?
2. How does rationing work?
3. How does rationing demonstrate a change in the role of government?

Document 7

No charges had been filed against these people nor had any hearing been held. Evacuation was on a Racial, or, perhaps more accurately, on ancestral grounds. It was the 'largest single forced migration in American History...' The responsibility of the Military was tremendous; the spectacular victories of Japan, the crippling of our fleet at Pearl Harbor, the possibility of invasion of our west coast—all were facts of tragic import, and at the time, were considered more than ample justification of the mass exodus. In addition, there was the threat of public retaliation against the Japanese-American population. We may feel that racial antagonisms fanned the flame of decision, that political pressures were of no little consequence in supporting the military action. In the light of retrospection and true evaluation the evacuation may have been unnecessary, but the fact remains that we, as a nation, were in the most potentially precarious moment of our history—stunned, seriously hurt, unorganized for actual war...

Born free and equal, photographs of the loyal Japanese-Americans at Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, California, Ansel Adams. 1944

1. What happened to the Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in the United States during WWII?
2. What does Ansel Adams think of these events?

Document 8



Westinghouse for the War Production Co-Ordinating Committee, c. 1943

1. Who is the audience for the poster?
2. What is the purpose of the poster?

Document 9

WHEREAS there is evidence that available and needed workers have been barred from employment in industries engaged in defense production solely because of considerations of race, creed, color, or national origin, to the detriment of workers' morale and of national unity:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, and as a prerequisite to the successful conduct of our national defense production effort, I do hereby reaffirm the policy of the United States that there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or

national origin, and I do hereby declare that it is the duty of employers and of labor organizations, in furtherance of said policy and of this order, to provide for the full and equitable participation of all workers in defense industries, without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin;

Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
The White House
June 25, 1941

1. What does Executive Order 8802 say?

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Brainstorm: What could the theses be of an essay that uses some of these documents?
Which documents would you use?