

Area/Skill - Social Studies	Cognitive Skill Level - Analysis/Synthesis	Correlation to Framework - 02.08	Lesson Number - 24
<p><b>Activity Title - Understanding the Price Paid - America's Conflicts</b></p> <p><b>Goal/Objective</b></p> <p>To demonstrate to students how to process information, analyze it, and report on their results.</p> <p><b>Lesson Outline</b> <b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Begin the lesson by coming to class wearing a clip-on "PRESS" badge and carrying a pen and paper. Announce that they, the students, are going to become reporters for an important news story.</p> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>The students' assignment is to find a war veteran within the students' families, friends, or neighborhoods. The student should call or visit the veteran and ask if he/she can conduct an interview regarding the veteran's war experience. Provide the student with a list of questions (<b>Interview Questions</b>) and have them record their answers.</p> <p><b>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</b></p> <p>Have the students orally share information about their interviews. Was it a positive or negative experience? Have them share one specific bit of information that they didn't know before the interview.</p>			<p><b>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout - <b>Interview Questions</b></li> <li>• Handout - <b>America's Wars</b></li> <li>• Paper and pencil</li> </ul>
<p><b>Real-Life Connection</b></p> <p>Discuss how each of the past wars has impacted the freedoms that Americans enjoy today. Have students think about their own future as they discuss how future conflicts could impact their lives.</p>			<p><b>Extension Activity</b></p> <p>Have students write a report about the conflict that he/she discussed with the veteran of war. Students should write about the veteran's experiences and the include information from the questionnaire.</p> <p><b>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</b></p> <p>Students may tape the interview.</p> <p>Assist students in locating a veteran to interview.</p> <p>Provide different ways to report the information, such as letting students act as television reporters and given their information orally.</p>

## GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans - Script

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### Activity Title - Understanding the Price Paid - America's Conflicts

#### Introduction

Come to class wearing a clip-on "PRESS" badge and carrying a pen and paper. *Say:* Today, you are going to become reporters for a very important news story.

#### Main Activity

Provide students with copies of the newspaper. *Say:* Choose several newspaper articles showing an event or incident. Read these articles. As you read them, note the language of the reporter. Ask yourself whether the reporter was factual or whether his/her opinions were mirrored in the article.

*Say:* Your newspaper assignment is to find a war veteran and interview him/her. You may have a family member who served in a war or conflict. If you do not have a family member who is a veteran, think about some of your friends or people in your neighborhood. You will need to contact this veteran and ask if you can conduct an interview regarding his/her war experiences. I have provided you with some sample questions. (Provide each student with the handout - (**Interview Questions**)). When you have finished the interview, bring your answers back to the next class meeting.

At the next class meeting, have the students share their interviews with the class.

*Say:* Now that you have had a chance to share some of your experience with the class, it is time to write your news article. Write a newspaper story about the veteran you interviewed. You will need to write concisely and accurately report information that you obtained from the interview. Make sure that you include a headline for your story.

#### Closure/Conclusion

*Ask:* Based on your particular interview, what impact did the war/conflict have on the veteran's life? What impact did the war/conflict have on the United States? What did our country learn from that particular war/conflict?

#### Follow-Up Lessons/Activities

If there are some exceptional interviews, take them to the local newspaper for possible publication.

**GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans  
Social Studies Lesson 24 Handout**

**America's Conflicts  
Veteran Interview Questions**

1. What war did you serve in?
2. What was your age at the time?
3. In what branch of service did you serve?
4. What was your rank?
5. Were you drafted or enlisted?
6. Did you receive any special training?
7. On what foreign soil did you serve?
8. In what battles were you engaged?
9. What were the conditions?
10. How long were you overseas?
11. What were your concerns/fears?
12. What loved one(s) did you leave behind?
13. Did you make any lasting friendships?
14. Do you have any memorabilia from the war?
15. Why did the United States fight in the war?
16. Can you provide any other information that might be useful?

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Social Studies Lesson 24 Handout  
America's Wars**

**American Revolution (1775-1784)**

**War of 1812 (1812-1815)**

**Indian Wars (Approx. 1817-1898)**

**Mexican War (1846-1848)**

**Civil War (1861-1865)**

**Spanish-American War (1898-1902)**

**World War I (1917-1918)**

**World War II (1940-1947)**

**Korean Conflict (1950-1955)**

**Vietnam Era (1964-1975)**

**Persian Gulf War (1990-thru date to be determined)**