

Courage & Selfless Service: A WWII ADT Presentation– LESSON PLAN

Essential Questions: What is courage? How have acts of courage during World War II impacted the lives of ordinary Americans? How does what the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team do today remember, honor, and serve highlight the courage demonstrated by airborne personnel and paratroopers during WWII?

OBJECTIVE: Students will analyze acts of courage displayed during World War II and determine the effects of those actions on the lives of ordinary Americans. Explain the relationship between selfless service and courage.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: During times of war, individuals and of all ethnic groups, beliefs, positions in life and backgrounds serve selflessly and perform extraordinary acts of courage. On the one hand, airborne paratroopers were willing to go behind enemy lines to help protect American shores from enemy attack. On the other hand, events such as the attack at Pearl Harbor and Executive Order 9066 transformed the lives of Japanese Americans and many other Americans on the Home Front. Despite invariable civil rights violations, ordinary Americans served selflessly and committed countless acts of courage to maintain the integrity of cherished American values as reflected in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Presentation: Members of the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team will explain what they believe is selfless service to country and describe examples of courage they have witnessed or learned from fellow veterans. Many members of the team are themselves military veterans.

Post-Presentation Activity:

Ask students to write a short paragraph describing individuals who they know who have dedicated themselves to serving others. Students should answer these questions in their paragraphs:

- Who is a person that you know who has dedicated himself/herself to serving others?
- In what ways does this person serve others?
- Why does this person stand out to you?
- How do you think this person would want his/her service to be remembered?
- What are some adjectives you would use to describe this person?