



Veteran's Day Close-Up by Sue Lockwood Summers

Who are the veterans? A reality check for students.

Veteran's Day is a holiday with different meanings to many students. Help students think critically about the media's role in shaping their ideas and attitudes about war, military service, and heroes. The following activities are meant to be collaborative lessons for media specialists and teachers.

Elementary/Middle School

- Introduce the term "veteran."
- Have students list what they know about the military based on movies and television programs.
- Introduce the term "purpose." Discuss possible purposes—such as reality, protest, or fantasy—that creators of the listed movies and television programs might have had.
- Explain that whether or not we support current war efforts, it is important to support the military who serve. Visit the Let's Say Thanks website to send greetings to military personnel.
- Have students visit Archiving Early America and other websites to research media of the 1700s that could inform the public about the Revolutionary War.
- Have students watch the news on CNN or visit CNN.com to learn about the war in Iraq.
- Have students compare and contrast communication technologies then and now, and discuss the reliability of information then and now.

RESOURCES

Archiving Early America
earlyamerica.com

Cable in the Classroom's Media Literacy for Educators
www.ciconline.org/enrichment/medialiteracy

Cable News Network (CNN)
www.cnn.com

Get Them Thinking! Use Media Literacy to Prepare Students for State Assessments
Sue Lockwood Summers (Linwood Publishing, 2005)
How to incorporate media literacy into preparing students for standardized testing.

Let's Say Thanks: In Support of Our Troops
www.letsaythanks.com

Media Literacy Clearinghouse: Images of War
www.frankwbaker.com/images_of_war.htm

The My Hero Project
myhero.com

High School

- Discuss patriotism and sacrifice as they relate to the reasons America celebrates Veteran's Day.
- Discuss heroes versus celebrities: What are the differences? Who decides?
- Compare and contrast the way that celebrities and heroes are depicted by different media, such as CNN, FOX News, PBS, news magazines, and tabloids.
- Discuss the role of the media in creating public perceptions regarding the current Iraq war.
- Ask: What war movies have you seen? Define a hero based on portrayals in these movies. Discuss how movies influence the perceptions of audiences.
- Assignment: Research a famous veteran and decide whether he or she should be considered a hero or a celebrity. Defend your response.

STANDARDS

www.mcrel.org

Language Arts: Viewing

Standard 9: Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media.

Level I, Grades K–2: 6. Understands the similarities and differences between real life and life depicted in visual media.
Level II, Grades 3–5: 1. Understands different messages conveyed through visual media.

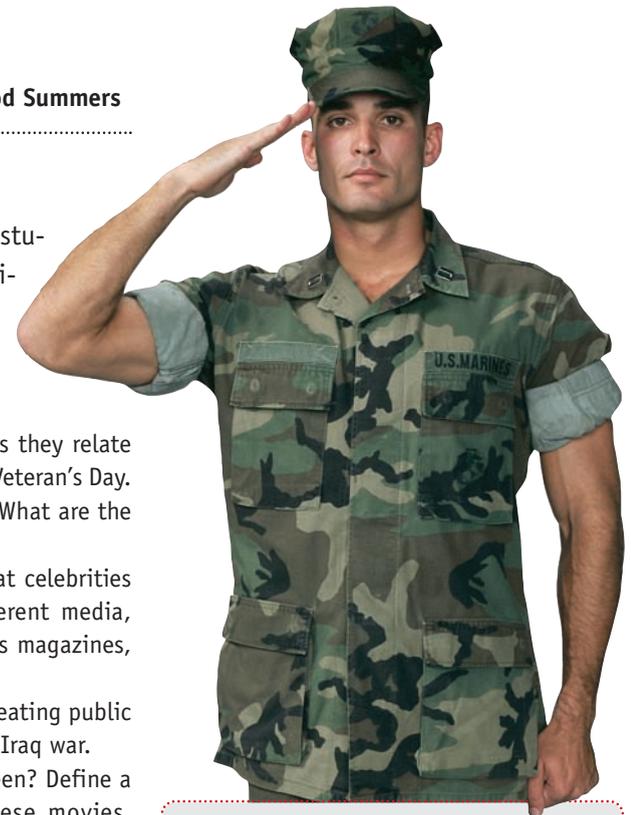
Language Arts: Media

Standard 10: Understands the characteristics and components of the media.

Level I, Grades K–2: 4. Understands that media messages and products are created by people (e.g., individuals and groups) and represent real and imaginary experience.

Level III, Grades 6–8: 2. Understands the different purposes of various media; 3. Understands how the type of media affects coverage of events or issues.

Level IV, Grades 9–12: 2. Understands how different media (e.g., documentaries, current affairs programs, web pages) are structured to present a particular subject or point of view; 10. Understands the influence of media on society as a whole.



Cable Programs and Websites

Around the Services, TPC, Monday–Friday, 12:30pm, 5:30pm ET

C-SPAN WWII Media
www.cspan.org/classroom/wwii/media.asp

The History of Veteran's Day
www.history.com/minisites/veteransday

The Story of Veteran's Day/Labor Day, HIST, November 10, 6am ET/PT

Today's Military, TPC, Sundays, 1pm ET

Video Gallery: History of the Holidays: Veterans Day
www.history.com/media.do?action=clip&id=history_holidays_veterans_day_broadband

World War II
www.history.com/minisites/worldwartwo