

CRITICAL CHOICES:

A Volunteer Military or a Draft?



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Video Page



Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?

Teacher's Guide

This Teacher's Guide includes the following:

- Suggested Lesson Plan
- Preview Questions
- Key Terms
- Viewing Guide
- Comprehension Questions
- Discussion Questions
- Quiz
- Activity: Who Chooses?
- Enrichment Activities
- Answer Key

Suggested Lesson Plan

These materials may be used in a variety of ways. For maximum benefit, we suggest the following lesson plan:

- As a class, discuss the Preview Questions and Key Terms.
- Distribute copies of the Viewing Guide for students to use as a note-taking tool during the video.
- Play the video, pausing if needed to facilitate understanding and note-taking.
- Review and discuss answers to the Viewing Guide using the Answer Key as a guide.
- In small groups, answer the Comprehension Questions.
- Review and discuss answers to the Comprehension Questions using the Answer Key as a guide.
- Use the Discussion Questions to spark class discussion, or assign these questions as homework.
- Replay the video as preparation for the Quiz.
- Administer and grade the Quiz using the Answer Key as a guide.
- As a class or in small groups, complete the Who Chooses Activity.
- Optional: Assign one or more of the Enrichment Activities as homework.

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?

Preview Questions

(These are meant to be read aloud by the teacher.)

1. What is the military draft?
2. Do you know anyone who has enlisted in the military? Why did they volunteer?
3. Do you know anyone who was drafted? How did they feel about the draft?
4. Is a draft fair?

Key Terms and Definitions

Compulsory – required

Conscription or draft – compulsory enrollment in the armed forces

Mercenary – a professional soldier hired for service in a foreign army; motivated solely by a desire for monetary or material gain

Propaganda – official government communications to the public that are designed to influence opinion in a systematic, large scale manner; the information may be true or false, but it is always carefully selected for its political effect

War of attrition / attrition warfare – a strategic concept which states that to win a war, one's enemy must be driven to the point of collapse by continuous losses in personnel and material; the war will usually be won by the side with greater resources

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Viewing Guide, page 1**

1. In ancient _____ ...you could not be a full citizen unless you were ready to shoulder arms.
2. Historically, there's a very strong linkage between the obligation of _____ service and the full rights of citizenship.
3. In the 19th century...most of the European countries had massive conscript armies. The United States did _____.
4. The one exception to that in the 19th century is the _____.
5. In New York City there were major draft riots when largely Irish _____ ...refused to serve.
6. In the 1st World War there were some 300,000 identified draft _____.
7. In World War I...the government employed..._____ to achieve its goals.
8. The public was heavily propagandized...even the conscription system was called "_____."
9. Woodrow Wilson said that the nation had _____ en masse for the war, which was...not true.
10. This country mustered 16 million men...in _____The great majority...were drafted.
11. The country as a whole had to accept as legitimate the diversion of _____ of its production to wartime purposes.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Viewing Guide, page 2**

12. World War II...was the last war that was fought...between large..._____ armies.
13. The draft became a focal point for _____ to the [Vietnam] war.
14. In 1968, _____ became the Republican presidential candidate.
15. [Milton Friedman] had long called for an end of the _____.
16. “The use of _____ is repugnant to our society except in cases of dire emergency.”
17. [President] Nixon almost immediately created a commission to consider the idea of creating an _____ force.
18. Two of the people on Nixon’s commission were _____ and Alan Greenspan.
19. “I don’t like to hear my patriotic volunteers referred to as _____.”
20. Nixon’s commission voted unanimously to end the draft, and in _____, it became official.
21. Now the army was _____ for employees with every other business in the country, which forced improvements in military salaries and benefits.
22. “As long as we have an all-volunteer force...no one is _____ to put their lives or their sons’ and daughters’ lives on the line.”
23. “It’s much _____ to run a bad war with a draft than without it.”
24. “We have the right to _____...We have the freedom to choose.”

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Comprehension Questions, page 1**

1. In what ancient civilization were people not considered full citizens unless they were willing to participate in the nation's defense?
2. Unlike many European countries in the 19th century, the United States did not have a conscript army. What war was the major exception?
3. Contrary to popular belief, there were actually an estimated _____ thousand American draft evaders during WWI.
4. Which new industry was used by America's leaders to distribute propaganda widely to the public during WWI?
5. What new name was given to the military draft?
6. Woodrow Wilson claimed that the country had volunteered for WWI "en masse" (all together, as a whole). Was this true?
7. The U.S. sent 16 million men into WWII. Were the majority volunteers or draftees?
8. What percentage of U.S. production was diverted to war needs during WWII?
9. The draft became a focal point for resistance to which war in the 1960s?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Comprehension Questions, page 2**

10. Which Presidential candidate's campaign supported ending the draft?

11. Who was the controversial professor of economics who had been calling for an all-volunteer army for years?

12. What did Milton Friedman say about the use of compulsion in our society?

13. For what purpose did President Nixon establish a commission shortly after his election?

14. What term did General Westmoreland use to describe army volunteers (a term that Milton Friedman strongly objected to)?

15. Milton Friedman compared an army of draftees to what?

16. When did the draft end?

17. What did the military do to attract new, voluntary recruits?

18. According to Professor Kennedy, what is the principal worry about an all-volunteer force?

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?

Discussion Questions

1. According to ancient ideas of citizenship, citizenship was tied to service in the military. Is there any connection between military service and citizenship in America today? Should there be?
2. Does past military service help or hurt a candidate running for political office in America today? Should it? Why or why not?
3. In what ways was WWII the end of an era in the history of warfare?
4. How did opposition to the draft influence the 1968 Presidential campaign?
5. What were Milton Friedman's views on military conscription? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
6. When the draft ended, the military suddenly had to compete with every other employer to fill its ranks. How did the army adapt?
7. Why do some people believe that having a draft system would make it more difficult for national leaders to take the nation into a war? Is this a good reason for having a draft system?
8. Others argue that it is easier for national leaders to continue involvement in a bad war with a draft system. Explain.
9. Do you agree or disagree with the statement that the government's power to command citizens to serve in the military is only legitimate in times of dire necessity or threat to the nation? Why?
10. In America, how fundamental is the individual's right to choose? Should each individual be able to make his own decision as to whether to join the military?
11. Does every able-bodied male have a responsibility to defend the country? What about women?
12. Does the all-volunteer military allow the army to be more selective than it could be with a draft? Do you think volunteers are typically more qualified than draftees, or less qualified?
13. If America had a draft system, would that have changed any of the decisions America made about military action after the terrorist attacks against America on 9/11?
14. If military recruitment falls short of military needs, what should we do as a nation to attract the needed recruits?
15. Does a draft make it harder or easier to go to war? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Quiz, page 1**

Multiple Choice

1. A draft system is best described as a(n) _____ system of getting military manpower.
 - A) voluntary
 - B) compulsory
 - C) new
 - D) untried

2. A mercenary soldier is one who _____.
 - A) volunteers in an army out of patriotism
 - B) serves in a military unit only because of the pay
 - C) is a conscript in the service
 - D) is thrown out of the army for cowardice

3. The first significant resistance to the military draft in the U.S. occurred during which war?
 - A) Civil War
 - B) World War I
 - C) World War II
 - D) Vietnam War

4. During World War I, the military draft was given the name _____.
 - A) Uncle Sam
 - B) conscription
 - C) Selective Service
 - D) all-volunteer military

5. In his criticism of the idea of an all-volunteer military, General Westmoreland referred to volunteers in such a system as _____.
 - A) recruits
 - B) mercenaries
 - C) slaves
 - D) patriots

Name: _____

Date: _____

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Quiz, page 2**

6. Which U.S. president established a commission to study the question of whether to end the draft?
- A) Woodrow Wilson
 - B) Lyndon Johnson
 - C) Richard Nixon
 - D) George W. Bush
7. According to the video, Woodrow Wilson's claim that the country had volunteered "en masse" for World War I was _____.
- A) true
 - B) ignored
 - C) advertising
 - D) propaganda
8. Economist Milton Friedman stated that compulsory military service would only be justified _____.
- A) in a dire emergency
 - B) when American interests were at stake
 - C) if there were not enough volunteers
 - D) during a just war
9. Which of the following was the last war in which military conscription was used?
- A) World War I
 - B) World War II
 - C) Vietnam War
 - D) Iraq War
10. The military likes an all-volunteer force because _____.
- A) they like the challenge of recruiting
 - B) they get to recruit more selectively
 - C) they get more soldiers
 - D) they don't have to admit women or minorities

Essay

According to Professor Kennedy, what is the principal worry about an all-volunteer force? Do you agree or disagree? Why? Provide evidence to support your answer.

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?
Activity:
Who chooses? Who benefits? Who pays? What's fair?

[These four questions can be a useful tool for evaluating any policy or system. Posing the questions is a great way to stimulate critical thinking.]

As a class, or in small groups, discuss the following:

(For each question, think about all the possible people or groups of people who may be affected. Pays should be interpreted broadly to include all types of cost/harm.)

Under a military draft system—

- Who chooses who will serve in the military?
- Who benefits from military service? In what ways do they benefit?
- Who pays for defending America? How do they pay?
- Is a draft fair? Explain.

Under a volunteer military system—

- Who chooses who will serve in the military?
- Who benefits from military service? In what ways do they benefit?
- Who pays for defending America? How do they pay?
- Is a volunteer military fair? Explain.

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Enrichment Activities**

1. Essay: A mercenary army in the true sense is an army for hire, owing no allegiance to a particular country. Examples: Swiss armies of Renaissance times and the Hessians during the American Revolution. In the exchange between General Westmoreland and Milton Friedman, was Westmoreland using the term mercenary in a different sense? How did Friedman win the argument?
2. Create a scene for a play: Review the arguments made by General Westmoreland and Milton Friedman for and against a volunteer military. With a partner, create a dialog of a heated discussion between two imaginary 19-year-olds in a coffee shop during the Vietnam War era, one of whom is arguing strongly in support of a draft army, and another who argues just as strongly for an all-volunteer army. Perform the scene for the class.
3. Find and interview two people who have served in the American military. Describe their views on such questions as these: Why did you join? Was military service what you expected? Do you think military service made you a better person and citizen, or worse? Do you believe America should bring back the draft system, or keep the current all-volunteer system? Why?
4. Review Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. Paraphrase that section—that is, rewrite in your own words. Under what conditions does it allow military action?
5. Create a military recruitment ad that is geared to students graduating high school. In what ways would that ad have to be different from a college recruitment ad? In what ways would the ad have to be similar?
6. Analysis: Evaluate the following statement from the film--

“Once we break that link between massive citizen participation and the actual conduct of the war, then we raise all kinds of very troubling questions about how easy it is to go to war, whether the public’s assent is really any longer even necessary for the deployment of military force.”

What wars did the U.S. fight using conscription after World War II? What wars has the U.S. fought since ending the draft? Research the reasons for these wars, the public attitude at the start of these wars, and any changes in those attitudes over the course of the wars. Did the government need stronger justifications for wars during conscription than it has since conscription ended? Why did the Vietnam War continue for so long despite the protests?

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?

Viewing Guide Answer Key

1. Greece
2. military
3. not
4. Civil War
5. immigrants
6. evaders
7. advertising
8. Selective Service
9. volunteered
10. World War II
11. 40%
12. conscript
13. resistance
14. Richard Nixon
15. draft
16. compulsion
17. all-volunteer
18. Milton Friedman
19. mercenaries
20. 1973
21. competing
22. required
23. easier
24. choose

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft? **Comprehension Questions Answer Key**

1. Greece
2. Civil War
3. 300
4. advertising
5. Selective Service
6. no
7. draftees
8. 40%
9. Vietnam
10. Richard Nixon
11. Milton Friedman
12. it's repugnant
13. the question of whether to end the draft
14. mercenary
15. slaves
16. 1973
17. improve salary and benefits; advertise
18. The principal worry about the all-volunteer force is its capacity to be used without the civil society in whose name it fights having any interest in the actual use of the force.

Critical Choices: A Volunteer Military or a Draft?

Quiz Answer Key

1. B) compulsory
2. B) serves in a military unit only because of the pay
3. A) Civil War
4. C) Selective Service
5. B) mercenaries
6. C) Richard Nixon
7. D) propaganda
8. A) in a dire emergency
9. C) Vietnam War
10. B) they get to recruit more selectively

Essay: The principal worry about the all-volunteer force is its capacity to be used without the civil society in whose name it fights having any interest in the actual use of the force.

Answers will vary.

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