C-SPAN CLASSROOM

Red Scare and McCarthyism Handout

Click on the linked videos and answer each of the questions.

1. Video Clip: The Rosenberg Trial (1:17) (short)
- Explain the charges that Ethel and Julius Rosenberg faced. What was the result of this?

2. Video Clip: The Red Scare and Nuclear Scientists (3:06)
- Explain the backlash that scientists faced during the Red Scare.

- What were the problems with this backlash?

- How did President Truman describe this problem?

3. Video Clip: Hollywood and the House Un-American Activities Committee (3:59)
- Who were the "Hollywood Ten" and what were they accused of doing in the House Un-American Activities Committee?

- What argument did the "Hollywood Ten" give in their defense?

- What was the result of the "Hollywood Ten" refusing to testify?

- Explain what is meant by "blacklisted."

4. **Video Clip: The Historical Background of McCarthyism (2:59)**
- How does Ms. Brennan describe Senator Joe McCarthy?

- Describe the political context for Senator McCarthy's speech.

- What was the general view of communism in the 1940s and 1950s? What specific events led to this?

5. **Video Clip: Senator Joe McCarthy's "Enemies from Within" Speech (3:33)**
- What was the historical context of Senator McCarthy's speech?

- Explain the major charge that Senator McCarthy's speech presented.

- How did Senator McCarthy's claims spread?

- Why did the number of people on the list change?

6. **Video Clip: ACLU Co-Founder Arthur Garfield Hays on McCarthyism (2:18)** (short)
- Explain Mr. Hays's arguments that the communist influence in other countries is different than in the United States.

- According to Mr. Hays, what is the problem with this search for communists?

7. **Video Clip: McCarthy and the Senate Hearings (5:32)**

- How did the election of 1952 increase the power of Senator McCarthy?

- What tactics did Senator McCarthy use during the Senate committee hearing?

- Describe who McCarthy targeted during this period.

- How did the public's opinion of Joseph McCarthy charge during these hearings?

- Explain the decline in Senator McCarthy's influence and power.