



Gibbs Smith Education

Lesson Plan

“Thank You For Your Service”

Remind students that conflict has shaped human society from its very beginning. Early humans fought each other, and wars between groups have been happening for centuries. But conflict can also happen in other places, such as courtrooms, classrooms, and homes, usually in the shape of debates and discussions. Conflict occurs between races, genders, and people with different religious or political ideologies and beliefs.

- **Ask:** Would you consider war to be organized violence? Why or why not? Why do groups go to war? Answers will vary, but may include to get more territory, defend against an attack, because of extreme nationalism, for rivalry or revenge, for economic advantage, for revolution or independence, because of religious reasons, because of bias or prejudice, etc.

Remind students that the practice of automatically giving veterans the full respect they deserve is fairly recent. Have a class discussion.

- **Ask:** Why do you think the attitude toward veterans changed after World War II? Answers will vary.
- **Ask:** What support programs do you think veterans should receive today? Answers will vary.

Have students choose one of the conflicts mentioned in the article to do further research on. Students should look at conditions of the conflict, who was involved, how it impacted life for US citizens, and any other information they find interesting.

Next, have students choose a historical or fictional person who has served in the conflict they researched and write a letter to them. Students should include details from their research that they think the soldier may want to hear about. The letter should also include a note of appreciation and recognition for their service.

After writing their letter, have students design a stamp that reflects the conflict that their historical or fictional person is serving in.

Alternate activity, have students write a letter to a real US soldier. This could be someone they know or they can draft a letter to send to a deployed troop. You can help them send their letter using the address provided:

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Tampa, FL 33613



Success Criteria ✓

- Students will explore the complex history of veterans in the United States.

Approx. Time ⌚

- 30 – 60 minutes

Materials ✍️

- Paper
- Pens
- The Conflict Issue, Volume 1.1, or
- The Journal: Thank You For Your Service