



Lesson Activity: The Living Room War

AP® U.S. History

Duration Approximately 45 minutes

Materials Needed

- UWorld “The Living Room War” Page:

The Living Room War

The media played a vital role during the Vietnam War, providing accounts of the fighting and death tolls. Government claims of military success were undercut by the casualties that viewers witnessed on television. This credibility gap increased public opposition to the war.



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1. What were some political and social consequences resulting from the television coverage of the Vietnam War?
2. In what ways did the Lyndon Johnson administration increase the credibility gap over the Vietnam War?
3. Other than television coverage, what other important ways did the news media increase opposition to the Vietnam War?

(full-size page included at the end of the lesson activity)

- Notebook paper and pencils
- Optional: presentation software—Google Slides, PowerPoint, etc.

College Board® Standards

- **RHS-1:** Although anti-communist foreign policy faced little domestic opposition in previous years, the Vietnam War inspired sizable and passionate anti-war protests that became more numerous as the war escalated and sometimes led to violence.
- **Skill 4.B:** Explain how a specific historical development or process is situated within a broader historical context.



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Activity Objectives

Discuss how opposition to the Vietnam War developed and what role the media played in increasing distrust in the federal government.

Activity Instructions

1. For the following jigsaw activity, **place** all students into small groups and assign each one of the three included questions from UWorld’s “The Living Room War” page. Ask them to discuss the question, recording their group’s ideas and conclusions on a piece of notebook paper or in a slide presentation:
 - What were some political and social consequences resulting from the television coverage of the Vietnam War?
 - In what ways did the Lyndon Johnson administration increase the credibility gap over the Vietnam War?
 - Other than television coverage, what other important ways did the news media increase opposition to the Vietnam War?
2. **Ask** each group to present the information they discussed to the class. This will create “jigsaw puzzle pieces” of information that will come together to form a complete picture of the topic.
3. Students should take notes while each group presents. When all small groups have finished, ask them to submit any presentation slides so they can be shared with the whole class (if applicable).

Possible Variations

- **Ask** students to create a slide presentation of their small group’s conclusions about their assigned question. Have them use this to **present** their findings to their classmates at the end of the jigsaw activity.
- **Ask** students to create their own visual representation of the Vietnam War in the context of their small group’s assigned question. Have them use this to **present** their findings to their classmates at the end of the jigsaw activity.

Lesson Extension

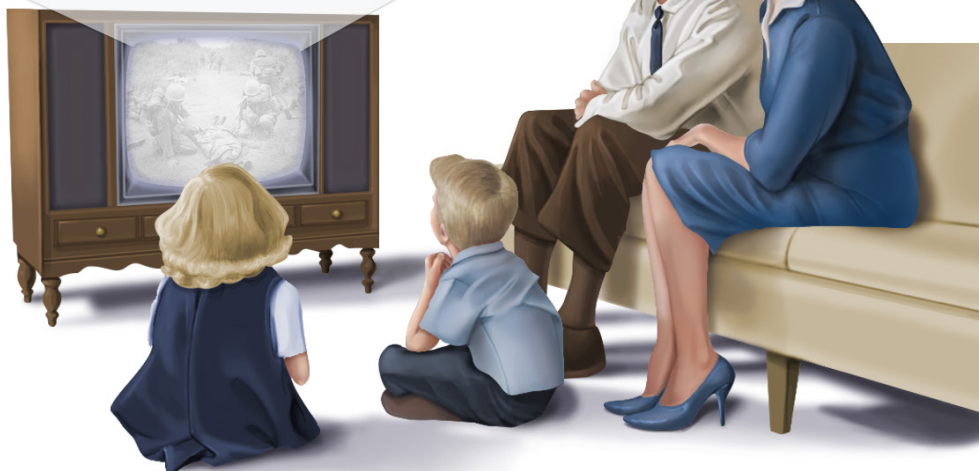
The following UWorld’s Learning Tools for AP Courses questions can be used for additional practice, a quick formative assessment, homework, or small group interventions: UWorld Question IDs 700990, 700836, 700242, 700388.

Guiding Questions

How and **why** did opposition to U.S. foreign policy in Southeast Asia develop and change over the course of the 20th century?

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