

LESSON FOUR: The Case Against the Defendant

Subject

History Elective (War Studies or Holocaust Studies)

Purpose of Lesson

The purpose of the lesson is to examine and analyze original Nazi documents to construct a case against a war crimes defendant.

Goals for Student Understanding

- The students will gain an understanding of the Nazi documentation used to construct cases against the defendants.
- The students will analyze documents to formulate a comprehensive list of evidence in which to try a defendant.
- The students will write in a clear, concise manner.

What Students will do to Build Their Understanding

- The students will analyze a series of Nazi documents to determine whether or not they address the charges levied at the military war tribunal.
- The students will use the information in the documents to construct a case against a defendant.

State Standards

Kansas

- World History Benchmark 8
 - Indicators 1, 2 and 3
 - The student engages in historical thinking skills
 - Analyzes historical materials to trace development of an idea or trend across space or prolonged period of time to explain patterns of historical continuity and change.
 - Develops and implements effective research strategies for investigating a given historical topic.
 - Examines and analyzes primary and secondary sources in order to differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretation.

Missouri

Knowledge Standards

- Communication Arts
 - Indicators 3 and 4
 - In Communication Arts, students in Missouri public schools will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge and proficiency in
 - reading and evaluating nonfiction works and materials
 - writing formally and informally

Performance Standards

- Goal 1
 - Indicator 2
 - Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas.
 - conduct research to answer questions and evaluate information and ideas
- Goal 3

Indicator 5

- Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills recognize and solve problems.
 - reason inductively from a set of specific facts and deductively from general premises

➤ Goal 4

Indicator 3

- Students in Missouri public schools will acquire the knowledge and skills to make decisions and act as responsible members of society.
 - Analyze the duties and responsibilities of individuals in society.

Resources and Handouts: Specific Resources

- ◆ Alphabetic List of Persons from <http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu>
- ◆ Original Nazi documents found on the various Holocaust internet sites

Resources and Handouts: Materials for Students

- ◆ Student assignment sheet *The Case Against the Defendant*
- ◆ Computers with Internet Access
 - <http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu>
 - other Holocaust sites

Nuremberg The case against the defendant

Select a defendant from the *Alphabetical List of Persons*. Examine some of the documents available that served as evidence against him.

- ◆ What are the charges against the defendant?
- ◆ Based on the documents you examined, are there other crimes that could have been brought against the defendant?

Complete ONE of the following exercises.

1. Construct a case against the defendant. Write a short 2-3 minute opening statement. Prepare an outline of the case you would present against the defendant citing the evidence you would use. (This is not to be a *copy* of the original trial transcripts, rather a case written by you using *other* documents that will serve as evidence against the defendant.)

2. You are a journalist charged with reporting the trial proceedings against one of the defendants. Write a three-part column or radio broadcast covering the case against the defendant and the findings of the tribunal.

