

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN
RELIGION AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Religion and the Declaration of Independence; 11th/12th Grade

AUTHOR(S)

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ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

There is a religious undertone to the Declaration of Independence that is consciously hidden due to secular pressure.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What does the DOI say?
- Who was involved in drafting the DOI?
- What passages can be connected to the Tanakh or Talmud or Jewish values?
- What was the difference between the motivations of the religious and secular community?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Analyze the DOI and identify and differentiate religious and secular motivations in the documents students will connect religious connotations to the Bible.

ASSESSMENT:

1-2 page response paper answering the prompt: "Where do you see the religious versus secular struggle in the drafting of the DOI? Which side would you support and why?"

MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

DOI, play representing drafting of DOI, markers, highlighters, Tanakh, powerpoint

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

Day 1

- Give background on context leading up to drafting of DOI
- Introduce players involved
- Read/act out play
- Discuss play and motivations involved - create a T-chart on poster paper of motivations

Day 2

- Read through DOI and summarize paragraphs
- Highlight instances of motivations fulfilled in 2 different colors
- Analyze Bible passages for meaning - make connections to DOI
- Discuss essential questions as a class
- Assign assessment

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NOTES: Differentiated instruction: use of colors, use of handouts, summary stops, open-ended vs close-ended questions, length of response, giving passages versus finding passages, use of research