



E/LA Virtual Learning

English I

May 1st, 2020



English I

Lesson: May 1st, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Evaluate how two or more texts develop similar topics

Do Now:

Watch [this video](#) of the same song being performed in 20 different styles.

What do you notice?

Lesson: Evaluating how different texts approach the same topic

Just as different artists may approach the same song with different styles and attitudes based on their tastes and abilities, so too will different writers approach the same topic differently in their writing. This could be because they are writing in different times and places, have different passions, or are writing for different purposes.

Pre-Activity Context

You're going to be asked to look at two speeches by very different speakers, writing during very different times for very different purposes, with a focus on how those speakers develop their ideas around the same topic: violence.

Pre-Activity Context, Cont.

Robert F. Kennedy was a Senator and an aspiring Presidential candidate in the 1960s. His speech was delivered the day after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. After King's murder, riots broke out in major metropolitan areas in response. Two months after giving this speech, Kennedy himself would be assassinated after a public appearance during his bid to win the Democratic nomination for President.

Pre-Activity Context, Cont.

Ta-Nehisi Coates is an award winning journalist and non-fiction writer. Coates delivered this speech at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on April 30th, 2015, 11 days after Freddie Gray died in police custody. You can learn more about this incident [here](#). After Gray's death, demonstrations occurred across the city of Baltimore and the US as a whole. Some of these demonstrations turned violent.

Activity: Speech, Inner Voice, Handout

- Follow [this link](#) to read the speech by Robert F. Kennedy.
 - Use this [Inner Voice handout](#) to keep track of your thinking while you read.
 - You can treat the Inner Voice paper just like annotating--write your thoughts, questions, confusions, connections or summary details in the boxes.
- After reading Kennedy's speech, read [an excerpt from Ta-Nehisi Coates' speech here](#).
 - Annotate using the comment feature on Google Docs.
- You'll need to go File-Make a Copy in order to work with the Inner Voice Handout, the Ta-Nehisi Coates speech, and the handout on the next slide.
 - Replace "Copy of" with your name.

Activity: Speech, Inner Voice, Handout

- After reading and annotating both speeches use [this handout](#) to help you explore how both speakers develop their points about violence.
 - If you're stumped on tone, consider [this website](#). You have to scroll a bit, but there are a ton of great tone words and definitions here.

Activity: Writing

After reading through both speeches and completing SOAPStone, how did these two different writers approach the same topic differently? Write about the main differences you see between the speeches.

Activity: Writing, ex.

Kennedy's speech had a much sadder tone to me than Coates' speech, which seemed more strident and irritated. Coates is trying to reveal to his audience that if they want to truly "not tolerate violence" they have to do more than condemning rioters. They have to address the way that people in high-poverty and high-crime areas have lived and continue to live. Kennedy is encouraging his audience not to get violent, while Coates wants his audience to reconsider the way they think of violence. Both speeches were effective in different ways. Coates drew on more personal experiences with violence, while Kennedy focused more on the dangers of resorting to violence as a way to right a wrong.

Extension/Reflection

Why do you think violence happens? Explore your ideas in writing.

Ex. I think violence is almost always a response to fear. People behave violently because they are afraid. They may be scared of not having what they need, of someone else trying to take what they have, of someone or something that is different or hard to understand, or simply of looking weak or soft in front of others. But I believe if you trace the root cause of most acts of violence back as far as you can, you'll find fear.