

Rush Lesson Plan: Should the Japanese Leader visit a WWII shrine?

Purpose:

What limits should be placed on remembering the past?

Essential questions:

1. Should Japan's Prime Minister be able to visit a WW II memorial?
1. Does the fact that this memorial insults the Koreans and Chinese enter into the question?
2. Is Koizumi's visit to the shrine different from a US President visiting Arlington National Cemetery?
3. Should the victors write history? Why/ Why not?

Materials:

Computers with access to the internet or printed articles from the internet.

Activities:

- 1) What do you know about Japan's involvement in WW II?
- 2) How might the people of Japan remember WW II
- 3) Situation: Japan's Prime Minister visits a WW II memorial. Should he be able to visit this memorial?
- 4) Pros/ Cons Chart
- 5) Discussion
- 6) Letter to the next Japanese Prime Minister: To go or not go

Assessment: Discussion of scenario, Letter to the Japanese ambassador to the US.

Grade Adaptations:

11/12th grade World Problems.

Brainstorm a Pre-write with the students as a group to enable to begin the letter.

Possibly read a picture book to younger students explaining WW II and the devastation of the war. One could adapt this also to utilize a compare/ contrast with issues such as slave reparations in the US, hate groups in Nazi Germany, and even local controversies such as the KKK putting a cross on Fountain Square.

Internet Articles about the Japanese leader visiting the Yasukuni WWII Memorial

Japan news clearinghouse:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4038624.html>

Japanese prime minister visits us- short explanation of controversy

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-koizumi27jun27,0,4974252.story?coll=la-home-world>

Background info on Yasukuni

<http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2321.html>

<http://www.yasukuni.or.jp/english/>

Japanese Newspaper about the controversy

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200606290155.html>

Column what the museum says:

<http://www.robertfulford.com/YasukuniShrine.html>

Pro Japanese Prime Minister visits

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/rogers/rogers188.html>

Con Japanese Prime Minister Visits

Visit violates Japanese Constitution?

<http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/national/news/20060702p2a00m0na006000c.html>

Graceland and YaSukini: Two Japanese Myths

<https://registration.ft.com/registration/barrier?referer=&location=http%3A//www.ft.com/cms/s/e950f51e-0791-11db-9067-0000779e2340.html>

Korean Protests against Prime Minister Visits

<http://www.imadr.org/attention/japan.yasukuni.html>

Japanese Public Opinion about visiting Yasukuni

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20060627TDY02011.htm>

Should Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi visit the Yasukuni WW II memorial?
(use internet sources to explain the arguments for and against his visit- see sheet)

Yes	No
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Should the Japanese Leader Koizumi Visit the Yasukuni WW II shrine?

Use the articles from the internet to complete the letter.

3500 Lumford Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213

Ambassador Ryozi KATO
2520 Massachusetts Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Kato,

Summarize the controversy with an explanation of both sides:

I understand that there has been a controversy involving the Japanese leader Koizumi visiting the Yasukuni WW II shrine.

Some people argue his actions are justified because . . . while others contend. . .

Explain your position on the issue with reasons.

I believe Mr. Koizumi's (are/are not) justified because. . .

Give Counterarguments, along with reasons for your position.

While some may say . . ., I believe. . .

Grade	The Issue	Your Opinion
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Advise to the future Japanese leader:

I would recommend that the next Japanese leader (continues/ does not continue) to visit the Yasukuni shrine because. . .

Sincerely,

Your Name (sign above)

Rubric For Letter

A	Accurately summarizes the issue utilizing 3 more resources from differing perspectives, including an accurate explanation of the viewpoints of all major groups (Koizumi, Japanese nationalists, Japanese people, China/ Korea, US)	Explains your opinion with multiple reasons, quotes various sources including counterarguments with rebuttals. Gives clear advise to future Japanese leader based on numerous historical examples
B	Mostly Accurate Summary utilizing 3 resources including a an explanation of the viewpoints of all major groups (Koizumi, Japanese nationalists, Japanese people, China/ Korea, US)	Explains opinion with reasons, paraphrases different sources with rebuttals. Gives advise to future leader based on historical examples.
C	Summarizes the issue utilizing 2 resources and a limited explanation of each group.	Gives opinion with reasons, some differing viewpoints included. Advises future leader on visiting site.
F	Summary is incomplete/ inaccurate- little/ no explanation of each group.	Little Explanation/ differing views/ historical examples.

Letter Concerning Koizumi's visit to the Yasukuni WW II shrine.

You have been hired by a candidate to be the next leader of Japan. Your task is to write a letter to the Japanese ambassador to the US advising him on whether or not to continue the visits to the Yasukuni WW II shrine. In your letter, you must summarize the controversy with an explanation of differing viewpoints. (Koizumi, Japanese nationalists, Japanese people, China/ Korea, United States) Explain your position on the issue with reasons. Give Counterarguments, along with reasons for your position. Include historical examples to advise to the future Japanese leader:

Attach this rubric to your final copy of the letter.