

The American Revolution and American Peoples: A Comparative Inquiry Liberty; March 2, 2002

Responses

1. Tell us two or three things you learned today.

- That the British don't recognize the American Revolution – that we're still seen as not acting with proper deference, still, to them – the perspective idea and how it was played out in the four person discussion.
- That's hard! The readings were very informative – and the dialogue with Jefferson was enlightening – helped clarify the “voices.”
- I didn't know that the movie *Revolution* existed, some useful videos/books for class, interesting ways to discuss perspectives – group role-play.
- More details and insight to the various perspective of affected groups.
- The method – this morning's dialogue with Jefferson based on the primary documents was a great example of how to involve students in thinking – I really enjoyed it!
- A new movie to possibly use, A new approach to teaching the differing meanings of liberty (Jefferson along with a woman, black, native and farmer).
- I learned about the British viewpoint of the “conflict” and the handout included many web sites.
- The diverse perception and meaning given to “liberty.”
- Perspective of the mob.
- The concept of liberty is subjective and cannot be easily defined. Depending on your status in America, Liberty had different meaning. The ideals of the Revolution did not apply to everyone and it was not meant to apply to everyone.
- Different ideas of Liberty existed for Native Americans, Africans and women. Africans siding with England and being relocated to Nova Scotia.
- It was interesting to discuss and note the voices of dissent that could have been, and were voiced at the time of the revolution.

2. What did you like the most about today's session?

- The four person discussion, that was great, the dialogue.
- Dialogue with Jefferson – I felt “angry” (I was black).
- The interaction, playing roles, discussions.
- Spontaneous and creative interaction, improvisation and participation.
- This morning's activity was great! Really invigorating and engaging.
- The topic.
- I enjoyed the role playing exercise in the morning session. It was fun and informative.
- The morning session on the reading, the list of web sites on the American Revolution.
- Great discussion, role playing, good mix with lectures and film and discussion.
- The group discussion as characters was interesting and fun and the video seems interesting. I plan to see the whole thing. I think it shows an image most people don't have of the Revolution.
- Role playing and video.
- The discussions, as they were led by the faculty. I can't quite put my finger on it (perhaps the delivery of the material), but I really enjoyed today's class!

3. Any ideas for how to use information from today's session in the classroom?

- I love the possibility of having students, at the end of a U.S. History course, doing a paper on how they think the Founding Fathers would view the U.S. today – what would they see if on a field trip.
- Still thinking – lots of “new information to process that needs to be put in terms 10 year olds can deal with.
- Thinking about the meaning of words – like liberty – is always important and overlooked.
- Role playing, better use of videos.
- I hope to apply the primary document inspired dialogue in class.
- Thinking about the British perspective was valuable. I'll hope to do more of that in my class.
- Role playing, films, several titles of books of possible materials that I could use in the classroom.
- Use of primary sources.
- Role playing ideas, film excerpts.
- Use clips from videos and reading selections for point of discussion.

4. Any constructive feedback for the presenters and/or planners?

- I'm not particularly engaged in having a film clip then being asked "what do you think?"
- Hooks – one big essential question is a great way to get conversations/thoughts flowing, particularly before lectures, break after lunch.
- For middle school kids, some more visual items.
- The afternoon section with the video was not nearly as intellectually engaging as has been the norm of this program.
- Good job.
- Today's session was very enjoyable. I enjoyed the movie, discussion, and role playing.
- Be specific of what you want when we are put in groups, create groups by counting off – you will get more diverse groups.
- The morning activity was engaging and fun and I enjoyed the day.
- Nicely done! Thanks for the help and info.

5. Other comments

- Great day.
- The discussion about video usage in constructive ways was useful because I think there are dangers of over-relying on videos, and it was helpful to hear from others.