MA'AT CULTURAL CURRICULUM CONSULTANTS

Assault at West Point

Student Packet | Grade 6 | Interdisciplinary RST

The Court Martial of Johnson Whittaker

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Class _____ Date _____

Essential question

How can a community distinguish evidence from prejudice and respond when an institution causes injustice?

This Research Simulation Task connects Social Studies, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. All readings are original instructional summaries with source labels. They are not transcripts of the 1994 film.

Learning goals

Explain Whittaker's case using a clear chronology and reliable sources.

Use maps and the five themes of geography to connect place and opportunity.

Evaluate a claim through observations, comparisons, and limits of evidence.

Write a RACE argument supported by reading, map, and numerical evidence.

Vocabulary

CADET military academy student. **COURT MARTIAL** military trial. **INQUIRY** investigation. **BIAS** preference that can distort judgment. **DUE PROCESS** fair procedures that protect rights. **COMMISSION** appointment as a military officer. **POSTHUMOUS** occurring after death. **CORROBORATE** support with independent evidence.

How to use evidence

Underline a claim. Circle its evidence. Identify the source and paragraph. Ask what remains uncertain. RACE means Restate, Answer, Cite, and Explain. Respect classmates and discuss institutional actions without repeating racial slurs.

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Day 1 Access and Belonging

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Do Now

What is the difference between entering a school and being fully included?

Read and annotate

1. Johnson Chesnut Whittaker was born enslaved in South Carolina in 1858. He entered West Point in 1876. His experience belongs to the struggle for meaningful access after emancipation. A place at an institution did not guarantee equal treatment. [S2, S4]

2. West Point's library describes "silencing," a practice in which white cadets avoided speaking to Black cadets except when duties required it. Such exclusion restricted social belonging. Whittaker faced this hostile environment while seeking a military education. [S1, S4]

Collaborative evidence task

Explain how paragraph 2 changes the meaning of access in paragraph 1. Cite both paragraphs.

Quick Write

How can a rule that appears equal still operate unfairly? Use one detail from today's reading.