

Teacher: Andrea Kelly

Title: Abolitionists, Confederates & Terrorists

FLVS Course: American history v.9
Lesson 3.03H Enrichment

Topic: John Brown

Grade level: High School 9-12

FLVS Turning Points Grant Lesson/ Activity/Content	
Summary: <i>(A short 3-5 sentence summary of the Activity and how it will be delivered)</i>	Honors students will participate in a debate about John Brown. After writing their essay for lesson 3.03H students will participate in an elluminate session to determine the point of view and motive of John Brown. They will complete a follow-up activity to explain if their opinion has changed. This will be an enrichment activity to assignment 3.03H.
National Standards for History Era: Link	Standard 2: The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people Standard 3: How various reconstruction plans succeeded or failed
State Standard(s): Link to SSS Link to Next Gen SSS	Evaluates conflicting sources and materials in the interpretation of an event. Understands how ideas and beliefs, decisions, and chance events have been used in the process of writing and interpreting history. Understands how religious, social, political, and economics developments shaped the settlement patterns of the North American colonies. Understands the role of special interest groups, political parties, the media, public opinion, and majority/minority conflicts on the development of public policy and the political process. Assesses the role that his or her own political behavior plays in determining the flow of power through our political system and for resolving conflicts in a pluralistic society.
Themes/Concept:	Abolition of Slavery
Essential questions (2-5 questions) <i>(What you want the students to know)</i>	Do you think John Brown was a courageous abolitionist who died for a cause he believed in, or was he insane? Was he a martyr or a terrorist?
Learning Goal(s): <i>(What you want students to understand)</i>	Identify the difference between a martyr and a terrorist. Identify the goal of abolishing slavery.
Launch Activity (Hook)	Students will read a CNN news clip: Confederates, Al-Qaida are the Same: Terrorists
Knowledge & Skills <i>(People, Places, times and vocabulary-what the student should be able to do. What skills will they use?)</i>	1. Identify John Brown 2. Define terrorist and martyr 3. Understand the importance of abolishing slavery
Lesson <i>(The lesson itself; Procedure)</i>	

1. The students will participate in an illuminate session to debate whether John Brown was a terrorist or a martyr.
2. Students will read the CNN news clip Confederates, Al-Qaida are the Same: Terrorists.
3. They will discuss reactions to the article both verbally and on the whiteboard.
4. Students will read 2 model essays one portraying John Brown as a terrorist and one as a martyr.
5. Students will discuss their reactions to the articles.
6. Follow-up activity will be to explain whether their opinion has changed or not after participating in this illuminate session.

Assessment Evidence: *What evidence will show that students met the learning goal?
The follow-up activity will determine if the student met the learning goal.*

Resources and instructional tools: *(Including Video Sources, Text Resources, Research Strategy)*

Confederates, Al-Qaida are the Same: Terrorists

April 9, 2010 by [Roland](#)
Filed under [Commentary](#), [Featured](#)

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After reading the hundreds of e-mails, Facebook comments and Tweets in response to my denunciation of Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell's decision to honor Confederates for their involvement in the Civil War — which was based on the desire to continue slavery — the one consistent thing that supporters of the proclamation offer up as a defense is that these individuals were fighting for what they believed in and defending their homeland.

In criticizing me for saying that celebrating the Confederates was akin to honoring Nazi soldiers for killing Jews during the Holocaust, Rob Wagner said, "I am simply defending the honor and dignity of men who were given no choice other than to fight, some as young as 13."

Sherry Callahan said that supporting the Confederate is "our history. Not hate; it's about heritage and history."

Javier Ramirez called slavery evil, but prefaced his remarks by saying that "Confederate soldiers were never seen as terrorists by (President Abraham) Lincoln or U.S. generals on the battlefield. They were accorded POW status, they were never tried for war crimes. Not once did Confederate soldiers do any damage to civilians or their property in their invasion of the North. The same is not true of Union soldiers."

Realskirkland sent me a Tweet saying, "Slavery is appalling, but was not the only reason for the CW (Civil War). Those men, while misguided on some fronts, stood up for what they felt was right. They embodied that American ideal that the states have a right to govern themselves. THAT is what a Confederate soldier stood for."

If you take all of these comments, don't they sound eerily familiar to what we hear today

from Muslim extremists, who have pledged their lives to defend the honor of Allah and to defeat the infidels in the West?

When you make the argument that the South was angry with the North for “invading” their “homeland,” Osama bin Laden has said the same about U.S. soldiers being on Arab soil. He has objected to our bases in Saudi Arabia, and that’s one of the reasons he has launched his jihad against us. Is there really that much of a difference between him and the Confederates? Same language, same cause, same effect.

If a Confederate soldier was merely doing his job in defending his homeland, honor and heritage, what are we to say about young, Muslim radicals, who say the exact same thing as their rationale for strapping bombs on their bodies and blowing up cafes and buildings? They say they are defending the honor of their ancestors by trying to rid the world of evil Americans.

If the Sons of Confederate Veterans use the vicious nature in which people in the South were treated by the North as a talking point, doesn’t that sound exactly like the Taliban saying they want to kill as many Americans for the slaughter of innocent folks in Afghanistan? Defenders of the Confederacy say that innocent people were killed in the war.

Hasn’t the same argument been presented by Muslim radicals in Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and other places where the U.S. has tangled with Muslim terrorists?

We can’t on one hand justify the honorable actions of Confederates as the duties of valiant men in the South, and then condemn the Muslim extremists who want to see Americans die a brutal death. These men are held up as honorable by their brethren, so why do Americans see them as different from our homegrown terrorists?

The fundamental problem with extremism is that when you’re on the side that is fanatical, all of your actions make sense and you are fluent in explaining away every action. Of those you oppose, every position is a personal affront that calls for you to do what is necessary to protect you and your family.

Just like radical Muslims that have a warped sense of religion, Confederate lovers have a delusional view of what is honorable. The Muslim terrorists are willing to kill their own to prove their point, and the Confederates were just as willing in the Civil War to take up arms against their fellow Americans to justify their point.

If you’re a relative of one of the 9-11 hijackers, that man was an out-and-out terrorist, and nothing you can say will change that. And if your great-great-great-granddaddy was a Confederate who stood up for Southern ideals, he, too, was a terrorist.

They are the same.

As a matter of conscience, I will not justify, understand or accept the atrocious view of Muslim terrorists who view their actions as representing a just war. They are

reprehensible, and their actions are a sin against humanity.

And I will never, under any circumstances, cast Confederates as heroic figures who should be honored and revered. No, they have been, and forever will be, domestic terrorists.

Roland S. Martin is an award-winning CNN analyst and the author of the forthcoming book “The First: President Barack Obama’s Road to the White House as originally reported by Roland S. Martin.” Please visit his website at www.RolandSMartin.com. To find out more about Roland S. Martin and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Follow-up Activity

Directions: Please answer the following questions after participating in the illuminate session.

1. Define a terrorist.
2. Define a martyr.
3. In your opinion, why was abolishing slavery so important?
4. After completing this debate, explain in a one paragraph summary if your opinion has changed regarding John Brown and explain why.