**Unit 1: Sacrifice**

This module is the foundation for the entire VFW Curriculum. Students explore the concept of sacrifice within the construct of the American prisoners of war experience. They will interview an adult about personal sacrifice to further the exploration of sacrifice and prepare them for the POW interview transcript primary sources used throughout the curriculum.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

* Describe and explore the meaning of American POW sacrifices.
* Compile and analyze information from personal interviews.
* Synthesize multiple information sources to generate a more developed viewpoint of sacrifice.
* Examine the Lieber Code, The Code of Conduct, and the Geneva Conventions.

COMMON CORE ALIGNMENT This module aligns with the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies for Grades 9-10. For a complete list of these standards, please see the Common Core State Standards Alignment tab on this same website.

**PRE-WORK**

1. Request the Echoes of Captivity DVD from Andersonville National Historic Site. ANHS lends out the DVD free of charge. Contact ANHS park staff to obtain a copy. <http://www.nps.gov/ande/index.htm>.

2. Have students dedicate a folder or binder as they will be working with many different primary sources. It will be beneficial to be able to reference all primary sources while working through the modules and final project.

**ACTIVITY 1**: Central Question Hypothesis

1. Pose the central question: What is the meaning of sacrifice?

2. Have each student write their answer to the question on the Sacrifice Expedition: My Perspective sheet. (Found below.) Discuss the students’ definitions of sacrifice. Sacrifice can be defined as the destruction or surrender of something for the sake of something else; something given up or lost.

3. Explain how the students are going to be learning about individuals who have sacrificed for our country throughout history.

**ACTIVITY 2**: Creating the Context

1. Introduce ***Echoes of Captivity***, which is a documentary produced by the National Park Service and narrated by General Colin Powell. The film uses narrative and visual material from the Andersonville National Historic Site to illustrate the American prisoner of war experience from capture to repatriation. The documentary covers the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, World War I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Storm. The premise is that American POWs have had similar experiences no matter which war they served in: fear and uncertainty after capture; strenuous and dangerous journeys to prison camps; horrific camp conditions; attempts at escape; a will to survive and overcome; and repatriation after release.

2. Instruct students to watch specifically for examples of sacrifice in the video and write down the examples on the Sacrifice Expedition: My Perspective sheet.

3. Show the ***Echoes of Captivity*** documentary.

4. Discuss the documentary and the examples of sacrifice the students observed and documented. Some examples could include:

* Physical and mental harm
* Death
* Suffering
* Malnutrition, bad health
* Confinement
* Premature aging
* Harsh living conditions
* Torture
* Witnessing brutalization of fellow prisoners
* Loss of family

**ACTIVITY 3**: Interviews

1. Explain to students they are to interview someone they believe could define sacrifice and provide examples of sacrifice in their own life. Possible interviewees could include: veterans, POWs, parents, grandparents, neighbors, community volunteers, business professionals, and politicians.
2. Hand out the Sacrifice Expedition: Another Vantage Point sheet (found below) to each student.
3. Have students craft five (5) solid, open-ended interview questions and compose them on the Sacrifice Expedition: Another Vantage Point sheet. Interview question examples:
   * What is the meaning of sacrifice?
   * What types of sacrifices have you endured?
   * What was the most significant sacrifice you have made?
   * How have your sacrifices made you stronger?
   * How is sacrifice part of the human experience?

4. Have students identify the interviewee, schedule and conduct the interview. Interview answers should be written on the Sacrifice Expedition: Another Vantage Point sheet.

5. Discuss the interviews as a class. Have students share the different stories of sacrifice and their key learning from the interviews

**ACTIVITY 4**: Redefine Sacrifice

1. Based on everything students have learned about and discussed concerning sacrifice, have them take a moment and reflect on their definition of sacrifice.
2. Hand out the Sacrifice Expedition: Reassessment sheet to each student. (Found below.) Review the sheet with the class.
3. Explain how the students need to redefine sacrifice on the Sacrifice Expedition: Reassessment sheet. More than likely, students will have a more dynamic definition.
4. Have students complete the Sacrifice Expedition: Reassessment sheet and answer the last question on how their new definition is different than the hypothesis definition.
5. Discuss as a class and/or have students turn in for formal review.
6. Extension Activities: Have students write a letter to a POW asking them about sacrifice. Have students write a poem about sacrifice. The poem should demonstrate what they have learned and how they now understand what sacrifice means in the context of a POW.

**SACRIFICE EXPEDITION: MY PERSPECTIVE**

Central Question:

What is the meaning of Sacrifice?

List five examples of sacrifice presented in *Echoes of Captivity*.

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**SACRIFICE EXPEDITION: ANOTHER VANTAGE POINT**

Interview someone to obtain their own personal view of sacrifice. Compose five solid, open-ended interview questions that will enable you to understand the meaning of sacrifice from their perspective. Document their answers below.

**INTERVIEWEE (Name of person being Interviewed):**

**DATE:**

**Question #1:**

**Answer:**

**Question #2:**

**Answer:**

**Question #3:**

**Answer:**

**Question #4:**

**Answer:**

**Question #5:**

**Answer:**

**SACRIFICE EXPEDITION: RE-ASSESSMENT**

After having watched *Echoes of Captivity* and getting someone else’s perspective on sacrifice, write another definition below.

What is the meaning of Sacrifice?

How has your definition of sacrifice changed from the original definition? Write your answer below.