



ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE ARCHIVES
LESSON/UNIT FRAMEWORK for High School
Facing Fascism: New Yorkers Remember the Spanish Civil War

TEACHER/SCHOOL	SUBJECT/GRADE LEVEL
Jeffrey Savage Midwood High School at Brooklyn College	Global History IV (most likely a gifted class) and Advanced Placement European History Lesson to be taught in May
BIG IDEAS	
<p>Students will learn about The participation of American Citizens in the Spanish Civil War as volunteers and also within the United States as supporters who volunteered their time and raised money to help the Spanish people through donations for medical supplies and ambulances.</p> <p>Students should know that not all the citizens of the western democracies agreed with the policy of appeasement.</p> <p>Students will view selections of a video history project, Facing Fascism: New Yorkers Remember the Spanish Civil War. (Available through ALBA for purchase). After watching the recollections of New Yorkers who were either the members of the Lincoln Brigade or supporters of the Spanish Republic , I learned they were real people, not sentences in a textbook and I want to pass this on to the students.</p>	
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS/ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS	
<p>Students will understand that although many people were apathetic to the rise of fascism, some volunteered to fight and some worked here in the United States to help the Spanish people and the cause of the Spanish Republic in their fight against Franco</p> <p>Questions: Why did many people shift either to the left or to the right during the Great Depression? Why did people decide to fight in Spain? How did other people contribute to the war effort by remaining home? Were the volunteers naïve? Did the volunteers accomplish anything? Was the Spanish Civil War a good cause?</p>	
CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS
Students should know that while many of the western Democracies pursued a policy of appeasement, some citizens volunteered to fight fascism.	Due to the fact that only 2,800 Americans participated in the Lincoln Brigade, students will be able to explain the apathy of the 1930s.
ASSESSMENT	
<p>Students will be asked to write e mails to ALBA (info@alba-valb.org) explaining their reactions to the efforts of the Lincoln Brigade to defeat Fascism in Spain and what they have learned about the SCW and the United States. These emails will be important feedback for ALBA as it develops materials for students on the topic.</p>	
ACTIVITIES	
<p>Two Class periods: We will view four segments of “Facing Fascism: New Yorkers Remember the Spanish Civil War” and read two letters from volunteers. Discussion.</p>	

RESOURCES

1. **Facing Fascism: New Yorkers Remember the Spanish Civil War** (DVD available for purchase through ALBA. Contact info@alba-valb.org or call 212 674-5398.) This DVD features 22 New Yorkers from all walks of life, who were interviewed in 2007 as part of a Museum of the City of New York exhibit, "Facing Fascism: New York and the Spanish Civil War."
2. [Letter from Hyman \(Chaim\) Katz](#) to his mother. November 25th, 1937.
3. [Letter from James Lardner to his mother](#) on Why he went to fight in Spain. May 3, 1938.

Adapted from: Wiggins, G. & McTighe, J. (1998). Understanding by Design. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.