

**Standards:**

1. All students will evaluate key decisions made at critical turning points in history by assessing their implications and long-term consequences.
2. All students will state an issue clearly as a question of public policy, trace the origins of the issue, analyze various perspectives people bring to the issue, and evaluate possible ways to resolve the issue.
3. All students will engage their peers in constructive conversation about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying democratic values, anticipating consequences, and working toward making decisions.
4. Students will collaborate with peers, experts, and others to contribute to a content-related knowledge base by using technology to compile, synthesize, produce, and disseminate information, models, and other creative works.

**Objectives:**

1. SWBAT analyze Cold War conflicts and express their opinions about them in written discussion.

**Opener:**

Background discussion must be completed in regards to the Cold War. We focused heavily on a remnant of the Cold War that still exists: the conflict between Taiwan and China. We completed a simulation of a possible future crisis over Taiwan involving the United States. All of this was done as background first.

**Procedure:**

You will need to create three discussion boards at blackboard.com before beginning this assignment. The discussion boards focused on three questions: Do you think that the Cold War was avoidable? Do you think that modern Taiwan is a sovereign country, or does it belong to China? Does the world need more than one nuclear superpower? Start each board by posting comments/furthering questions of your own.

Post the following assignment in the assignments section of your Blackboard site:

<Start Assignment> In class we have discussed the question of Taiwan and how this modern problem relates to the Cold War period of American History. In this activity you will explore further this question and two others by participating in an online discussion.

You will have one week to read and respond to the discussion board. You are required to have at least 4 responses (at least one for each of the 3 questions) and to read all of the other responses. You are encouraged to respond to your classmate's responses so as to have an online "conversation." If you have never used a discussion board before, you will soon get the hang of it. The discussion board closes at midnight on the evening of Wednesday, March 27.

When you have completed this you will write a reflective 2-page essay in which you pick one of the discussion threads and summarize the major sides of the arguments and then include your own opinion. Send this paper electronically to me using the digital drop box in the "classroom tools" section. This paper is due by midnight on the evening of Monday, April 8 (the day we return from Spring Break).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mr. Huff at mhuff@umich.edu. Please proceed to the discussion board by clicking on the link to the left. <End assignment>

**Closure (and Evaluation of Student Progress):**

Students will complete the assignment on their own time entirely outside of class. A debriefing discussion at the end of the assignment is recommended, or you could interject comments into the discussion board yourself and have an ongoing debriefing in that manner.

**Reflective Evaluation (Student Teacher's Evaluation of Lesson Taught):**

**Cooperating Teacher's Comments:**

**Lesson plan approved by Andy Christopherson on \_\_\_\_\_.**