

History/Social Science Argument:

History Argument Guidelines

Two or more team members will prepare the history argument and will present it on the Tenacity Challenge Day before a panel of judges. The argument, which should address the prompt below, should be 8 to 10 minutes in length. Visual aids, like PowerPoint, are allowed. Your argument must include primary source evidence and interviews that the team members have conducted. On the day of the event, you will submit a list of sources used in the development of your argument. If the list of sources is not included, 15 points will be deducted from the final score. If the list of sources is submitted but does not contain either primary source evidence or interviews, 10 points will be deducted from final score. See scoring rubric.

Major Thesis Question

In 1919, the racist response to African American migration from the South to northern cities like Chicago AND the post WWI return of trained African American soldiers resulted in horrific violence against African American communities. (See also East St Louis in 1917 and Tulsa Oklahoma in 1921). At the same time, the Palmer Raids rounded up between 6,000 and 10,000 immigrants for deportation. Activists fighting for poor and working people were regularly called communists. Many of the legal reforms of the past Progressive Era were rolled back and business boomed. In the early 1920's, the Scopes Monkey trial led to the prohibition of teaching evolution in schools. The Ku Klux Klan marched down 5th Avenue in New York. There were no African American congressmen, governors, and only a handful of state legislators. African Americans in the South were legally segregated and politically disempowered. The NAACP was 10 years old and W.E.B. DuBois, one of its founders and editor of *The Crisis*, was promoting a different way to fight racism than his counterpart, Booker T. Washington.

Compare and contrast the political, economic and social/cultural conditions in 1919 and the early 1920's with those of the present day. Which do you find to be more significant, the similarities or differences, and why?

Secondary Questions:

1. How are the present administration's attacks on DEI, the sending of troops into major cities, and the ICE raids/mass deportations similar to or different from the race riots and deportations of the earlier period. Consider their causes, purposes and effects.
2. Do you see other significant parallels or differences regarding cultural divides, political power and government policies or actions, e.g., with regard to education, health, unions, business growth, and/or free speech?
3. What inferences can you draw from what you've learned?

Your thesis argument should be supported by:

- Demonstrating that you have engaged in an extensive examination of the earlier period
- An analysis of why the earlier era saw such attacks on African Americans, unions, and progressive reforms, and what their effects were

- Demonstrating that you have developed a strong knowledge base about today's political, economic and social/cultural events.
- Well-reasoned explanation of the causes and effects of today's mass deportations and attacks on DEI
- An exploration of other parallels between the two periods, and their significance
- An exploration of differences between the two periods and their significance
- A thoughtful set of inferences and a conclusion about the two periods' comparison

Please refer to the specific requirements below:

1. Presentation length 8-10 minutes
2. Visual aids may be used
3. Face to face, telephone or Skype interviews with at least two of the following:
 - Professor or writer of African-American History and Culture, Sociology, Popular Culture
 - Professor or writer of post-WWI-mid-Twenties United States History
 - Government office holders
 - 1 Social Studies teacher
 - Contemporary DEI activist
 - Contemporary journalist