

Unveiling the truth: how the United States fought Soviet disinformation during the Cold War

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Introduction for the teacher

The lesson script is intended for students aged between 14 and 18. The subject matter discussed can be used in interdisciplinary classes in history, culture, media education and social sciences.

The material has been divided into three parts: the lesson scenario, a set of source materials and a worksheet of exercises to be done during the class, in a group or individually.

Instructions

The script contains seven pieces of source material and a worksheet with exercises to be implemented during three lessons (45 mins). The lesson structure can be modified by the teacher to achieve specific objectives. The source materials and worksheet can be adapted or used only partially according to the class requirements. The lesson will benefit from using the Internet (computer, multimedia projector and interactive white board), including devices connected to the Internet (smartphones, tablets, etc).

Operational goals

The student is able to:

- define the concept of disinformation,
- characterise disinformation campaigns led by the USSR relating to health issues,
- explain the differences between disinformation during the Cold War and current times,

- analyse sources, texts and photographs indicating the cause-effect link between them and historical events,
- develop an independent argument and contribute to the debate.

Teaching methods

- teacher-led discussion,
- group work,
- brainstorming,
- analysis of source material, texts and illustrations,
- four-corners method,¹
- independent work with a set of exercises.

Teaching aids

- sets of exercises and source material available on the [Hi-Story Lessons](#) platform,
- board/flipcharts, felt pens/chalk,
- large paper sheets/Bristol board sheets, post-its,
- a computer with Internet access and a multimedia projector and interactive white board.

Before the lesson

Ask the students to read the essay titled '[America's Countering Soviet Disinformation in the 1980s](#)'.

¹ You can learn more about this method here:
http://www.eworkshop.on.ca/edu/pdf/Mod36_coop_four_corners.pdf
accessed 20 October 2022].