

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 9-12

Student Activity: Legacies are Not Left in Graffiti

Title: Legacies Are Not Left in Graffiti

Summary: Using critical thinking skills students will explore solutions to the problem of graffiti at Fort Davis National Historic Site.

Guiding Question: What is the best solution for preserving Fort Davis?

Lesson Objective: Students will--

- Identify possible solutions for solving a problem
- Take a position on their idea for the best solution
- Create an action plan for implementing their solution

Materials Needed:

- Assignment sheet (below)
- Access to Internet for research

Procedure:

1. Present the problem to students (on top of assignment sheet below). Give them time to research possible solutions to stopping/preventing graffiti.
2. Students choose the solution they think is the best and create an action plan for implementing this solution.
3. Give students options for presenting solutions and action plans to the class. This may be an oral presentation, a poster display, a panel discussion, or a debate.
4. Have each student write a poem, essay, or story, or give a speech describing his or her feelings when seeing something defaced by graffiti. (Perhaps there are places in the school, schoolyard, or in the local community where there are examples of graffiti.)
5. Have students imagine that they are a historic wall or ancient cliff face that has been defaced with graffiti, then write an essay or do a short role-play about what they might say to the criminals who produced the graffiti.
6. Direct students to think about something they own or value. How would they feel if this object were damaged by graffiti or some other way? Write about this or do an oral presentation.

Assessments:

- The solution and action plan may be graded for accuracy of information and completeness on the criteria listed on assignment sheet below.

Extensions:

- Ask students to write a persuasive letter to their current Congressperson or to the Secretary of the Interior, urging him/her to consider your solution for preserving public places such as National Historic Sites.

National Social Studies Standards:

I. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

II. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ways human beings view themselves in and over time.

III. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

V. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

VI. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance.