Syrian Refugee Crisis

***Video Viewing*** - “How has the Syrian Civil War sparked a refugee crisis?” (1:18) - <https://video.choices.edu/media/how-has-syrian-civil-war-sparked-refugee-crisis>

***Activity - Student Deliberation - Debate: What is America’s Responsibility to Syrian Refugees*** - Have students listen to the NPR Podcast, “Debate: What is America’s Responsibility to Syrian Refugees” (5:04) - <https://listenwise.com/teach/events/682-debate-what-is-americas-responsibility-to-syrian-refugees>

Podcast description: The Obama administration promised to welcome 10,000 Syrian refugees into the country this year, but it has made little progress toward this goal. A top refugee official explains how the U.S. will keep working to fulfill this promise. Citizens and politicians alike have strong opinions on refugee issues. Some people think we must invite those in trouble into our country, while others worry that welcoming refugees could threaten our safety.Government officials hope to listen to all concerns as they work to protect people’s safety at home and abroad. Listen to this story and then have your students debate America’s responsibility to Syrian refugees.

As students listen to the Podcast, have them fill out the T-chart at the end of the lesson plan for the students to track arguments on both sides of this question from the podcast.

*If you are 1:1* - After the podcast, give students ten minutes of time to do additional research on their own to add arguments to both sides.

*If you are not 1:1 OR you want to save time* - give the students copies of these two articles and have them skim them to find additional arguments to add to their T-chart:

* “America’s Moral Responsibility to Refugees” - <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/america-moral-responsibility-syrian-refugees-article-1.3040935>
* “There are Serious, Unbigoted Reasons to be Wary of a Flood of Syrian Refugees” - <http://www.nationalreview.com/syrian-refugees-arent-1939s-jews>

Give students a brief time to reflect on which side they want to defend. Divide the class on the basis of which side of the argument they would like to be on. Have students deliberate and debate the question. Try to have each student in the class talk. Try to ping-pong back and forth so there is alternating arguments being discussed.

“Debate: What is America’s Responsibility to Syrian Refugees”

Use this chart to track arguments in the NPR podcast and the independent research you will do.

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| **America has a responsibility to Syrian refugees** | **American does not have a responsibility to Syrian refugees** |
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