



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## **DICTATORS HALL OF SHAME**

By Heather Cagle

### **Activity Description**

Students will learn about different dictators then will compare life in a dictatorship to life in a democracy.

### **Suggested Grade Level**

Middle school (grades 6–8)

### **Estimated Time to Complete**

One class period

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to

- identify powerful dictators in the world;
- contrast dictatorships with democracy.

### **Materials Needed**

- Printed-out articles from *Parade Magazine* (<http://www.parade.com/dictators/2009/>)
- Paper
- Timer

### **Activity Procedures**

1. Hang articles about each pre-selected dictator around the room.
2. Place students in small groups and assign them a dictator to start with. When reading about the dictator, the students need to take notes, writing down important information (name, years in control, reason for their rank).
3. Give students three minutes at each dictator, and then have them rotate until they are back to their original location.
4. Debrief students by discussing some of the information that surprised them.

5. To conclude, create a Venn Diagram comparing life in a dictatorship to life in a democracy.

### **Common Core State Standards**

English Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Grades 6–8

#### **Key Ideas and Details**

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

#### **Craft and Structure**

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
5. Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
6. Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).