

1 Channel One Network®

Lesson Plan

Celebrating the life of Edward R. Murrow and the release of *Good Night. And Good Luck.*

Comprehension Questions and Suggested Answers

1. Who was Joseph McCarthy?

Answer: McCarthy was a U.S. Senator from 1947 to 1957. As the chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, he became notorious for investigating U.S. government officials and citizens in the aggressive pursuit of Communists and Communist sympathizers.

2. What political group was McCarthy focused on ousting?

Answer: Communists.

3. Edward R. Murrow was a pioneering figure in what profession?

Answer: Television news broadcasting.

4. What is communism?

Answer: A governmental system in which the state controls the economy and a single party holds power, typically stating the goal of creating a classless society.

5. How did McCarthyism end?

Answer: In 1953, McCarthy led a failed attempt to uncover Communist Party members in the U.S. military. Pioneering TV news broadcaster Edward R. Murrow produced a series of reports that countered this Cold War hysteria and led to McCarthy's censure.

Media Literacy

- Analyze the role Edward R. Murrow played in spurring the end of McCarthyism.

Character Counts

- How did McCarthyism lead to restrictions on the freedom of speech?

Writing Experience

- Research and write a news story. Then upload it to the "citizen journalist" campaign through our partner, Participate.net. Citizen journalism is the act by which citizens like you can collect, report and analyze news at a grass-roots level, and distribute it for public consumption. It puts the power of mass media into everyone's hands.

Vocabulary and Suggested Definitions

McCarthyism

A period of intense anti-Communism in the United States, primarily from 1948 to 1954.

Red scare

Widespread fears of Communist influence on U.S. society and Communist infiltration of the U.S. government.

Blacklisted

People who were suspected of having Communist affiliations during the McCarthy period. They were often ostracized as a result of this suspected affiliation.

Communism

A governmental system in which the state controls the economy and a single party holds power, typically stating the goal of creating a classless society.

Cold War

State of political tension that stops short of full-scale war, particularly that which existed between the United States and the Soviet Union following World War II.