

American History 8 -- Mr. Ruppert
Chapter 27: The Cold War
Portfolio Assignment
Contrasting Views and Visual Extravaganza of the Cold War

You may have noticed that Mr. Ruppert "occasionally" uses visual content on the overhead projector in order to make a historical point. This is primarily because it is certainly true that as they say (who in the heck are "they" anyway?) "a picture is worth a thousand words". Hey, just think what that means. If there was no overhead projector than each visual I consequently didn't get to use would resulted in my using 1,000 more words per class for each visual you missed. OUCH!!! Now its your turn to turn the tables and overload me with visual content!

As we are learning, the Cold War was the product of two very different nations with very different and competing systems of government and very often very different interpretations of just what was behind the actions of the other side.

For example: What do you mean you need Poland as a "buffer zone?" The Marshall Plan is nothing more than a new form of dollar diplomacy! We are forming NATO as a defensive measure to help ensure containment. How can you call the Warsaw Pact simply a "defensive" agreement when they are forced to be your puppets behind the Iron Curtain? We only blockaded Berlin because your three nations are obviously plotting against us by creating a united West Germany. THE LIST GOES ON AND ON!!!

As any good slight of hand magician will tell you, there is little that is more susceptible to illusion, misinterpretation, and subjective interpretation than the human eye. So, in the Cold War spirit of subjective interpretation, lets go "visual to the max" in documenting the events which caused more conflicting interpretations than a David Copperfield magic show. Ah yes...Your assignment instructions...

This should be done on 8.5 x 11 paper and the rules are as follows.

1. The top of page 1 should have a heading which reads:

The Cold War Camera (1945 - 1989)

2. The remainder of this page and all subsequent pages should be a well fitted collage of images from the Cold War. Each image should be clearly numbered.

Advice: Go small with a 2, not a **2**.

3. The last page of the collage should be a key which lists and briefly identifies the subject of the visual

Ex: 1. Kennedy in '62 during the Cuban Missile Crisis
2. the Soviet satellite Sputnik
3. a US family nuclear fall-out shelter from the 1950s

4. Scoring is as follows

2 points per visual with a maximum of 90 points (45 visuals in the collage)
10 points for the key
Maximum point value for the project is 100 points

Automatic 100% on the project, it is just a matter of how many points it is worth.