



Engaging Students in the Cold War:

**Using Primary Sources from the U-2 Spy Plane Crisis
to Teach US/USSR Relations**

Timothy O'Neil • St. Louis University High School • September 19, 2017

Objectives

1. Discuss the Summer Workshop at Eisenhower Library and some of the lessons created by the teacher cohort. (It was hot!)
2. Why U-2 is a good case study for a world history course
3. Explore what Docsteach.org is as a learning and teaching tool
4. Share and discuss additional resources

Summer workshops at National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/education/primarily-teaching>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.archives.gov/education/primarily-teaching>. The page features the National Archives logo and a search bar. A navigation menu includes 'RESEARCH OUR RECORDS', 'VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS', 'EDUCATOR RESOURCES', 'VISIT US', and 'AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS'. The 'Educator Resources' section is highlighted, and the page title is 'Primarily Teaching'. The main heading is 'Summer Workshops for Educators on Using Historical Documents in the Classroom'. The text describes the workshops, their themes, and the use of the DocsTeach tool. A sidebar on the left lists various educational resources, and a photo shows people working at computers in a classroom setting.

Sign up x E2 Educ x Indoor x 3DF Ze x Unity - x U-2 spy x Primari x Researc x Key Cor x MOCHE x Bridg x Timothy

Secure | <https://www.archives.gov/education/primarily-teaching>

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RESEARCH OUR RECORDS VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS EDUCATOR RESOURCES VISIT US AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Educator Resources

Home > Educator Resources > Primarily Teaching

Educator Resources

- Educator Resources
- DocsTeach: Our online tool for teaching with documents
- Special Topics & Tools
- Student Visits
- Professional Development
- Distance Learning Programs
- National History Day Resources
- Education Programs at Presidential Libraries
- Events & Public Programs

Primarily Teaching

Summer Workshops for Educators on Using Historical Documents in the Classroom

Join us to conduct research with original documents in the holdings of the National Archives and Presidential Libraries. Discover some of those incredible teachable documents that help educators and students unlock the past.

All workshops will have a national theme matching that of [National History Day \(NHD\)](#) in 2019. (Participation in NHD is not required.) You will explore a specific topic that fits within the broader theme, researching primary sources like letters, reports, petitions, case files, photographs, and more.

You will identify between 3 and 5 items (documents, photos, maps, etc.) to digitize and make available online. We will add these to our online tool for teaching with documents—[DocsTeach.org](#)—while you're onsite. During the workshop, you'll produce a [DocsTeach learning activity](#) using these digitized primary sources.

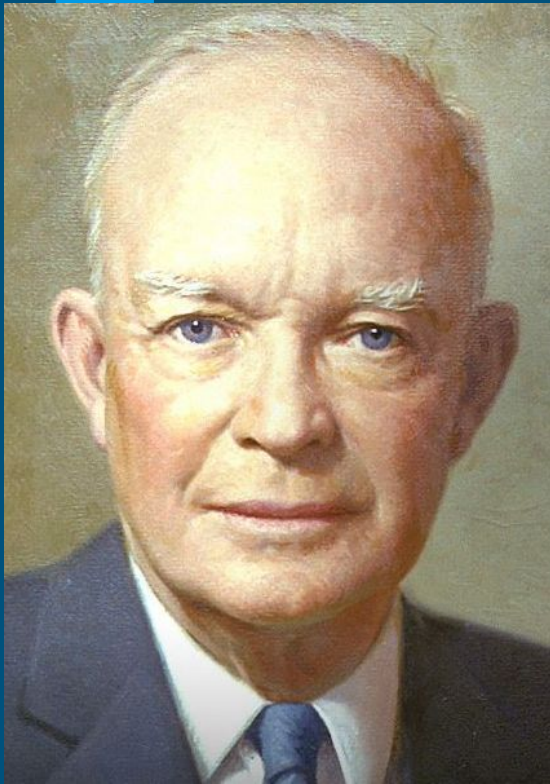


Topics and Locations

- **Check back in early spring for more information and to apply.**

The Eisenhower Presidential Library

<http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.net/>



~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

November 24, 1954

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
0810 24 November 1954



Others present: Secretary of State
(for part of meeting)
Secretary of Defense
Mr. Allen Dulles
Secretary of Air Force
General Twining
Lt. General Cabell
Lt. General Putt
Colonel Goodpaster

Authorization was sought from the President to go ahead on a program to produce thirty special high performance aircraft at a cost of about \$35 million. The President approved this action. Mr. Allen Dulles indicated that his organization could not finance this whole sum without drawing attention to it, and it was agreed that Defense would seek to carry a substantial part of the financing.

The Secretary of Defense sought the President's agreement to taking one last look at the type of operations planned when the aircraft are available. The President indicated agreement.

To a question by the President, the Secretary of State indicated that difficulties might arise out of these operations, but that "we could live through them."

In summary, the President directed those present to go ahead and get the equipment, but before initiating operations to come in for one last look at the plans.


A. J. Goodpaster

Why the U-2 Spy Incident in a World History course?

- Espionage was at the heart of the Cold War.
- Provides an opportunity to consider historical context.
- Highlighted the importance of technological advantage in the Cold War.
- Highlighted the fluid relationship that existed between USSR/USA.
- USSR/USA used events in the Cold War as political propaganda to sell the ideology to the rest of the world and used the mistakes of the other in this effort.
- For practical reasons...

Iron Curtain Speech

Winston Churchill gave the Iron Curtain speech at Westminster College in Fulton, MO, in 1946.



Truman Doctrine

President Truman outlined the “Containment” policy to a joint session of Congress in March 1947.



Whiteman Air Force Base

Home of 509th Bomber Wing
and 351st Missile Wing-30 Minuteman Missile Sites
(Inactive)



Bridge of Spies



Timeline of the U-2 Incident (1960)

May 1--Gary Powers' U-2 spyplane is shot down over Sverdlovsk, USSR

May 5--Khrushchev statement that this was an "aggressive act" by the US

May 7--Khrushchev statement re: Powers is alive and admitted being a spy working for the CIA

May 10--US telegram to USSR requesting an interview with Powers

May 11--Eisenhower statement defends espionage

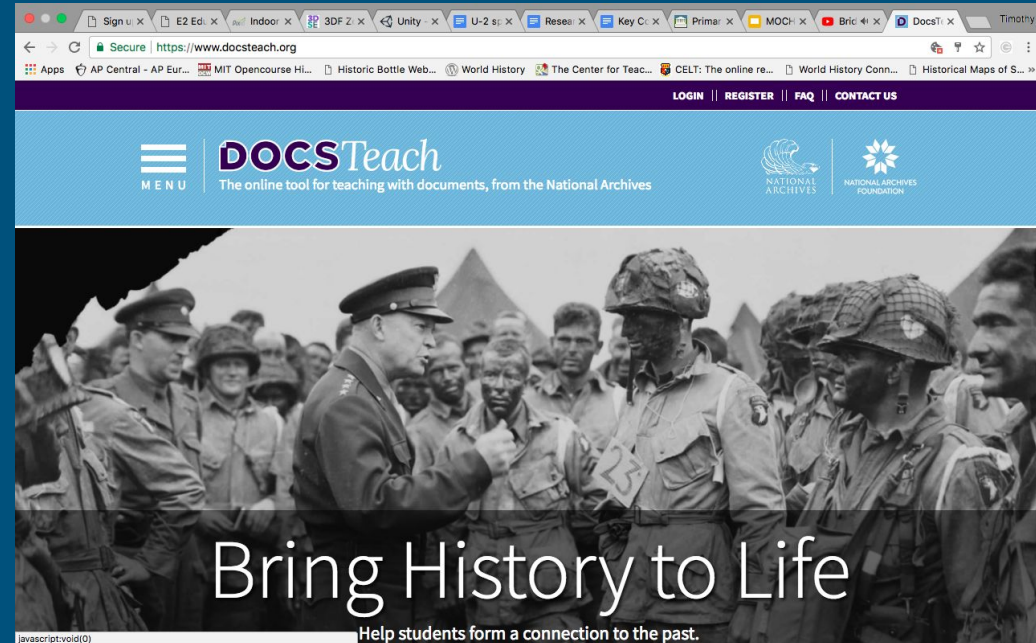
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGus0EAlhBU>

May 12--Khrushchev exhibits U-2 fragments before world media

May 16--Paris Summit collapses when Khrushchev demands apology from US.

Using Docsteach.org

- Online tool for teaching with primary sources from the National Archives (Follow on Twitter!)
- Multimedia primary sources available
- Searchable teacher-constructed activities
- Create a free account for your own activities using several different styles



www.docsteach.org

Resources for the Cold War

Michael Beschloss, *Mayday: Eisenhower, Khrushchev and the U-2 Affair*, 1986.

Martin Walker, *The Cold War: A History*, 1994.

Robert Wallace and H. Keith Melton, *Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA's Spytechs, from Communism to Al-Qaeda*, 2009.

Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum

200 SE 4th St.

Abilene, KS 67410

785-263-6771

<http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.net/>

Pam Sanfilippo, Ed. Specialist

pam.sanfilippo@nara.gov

785-263-6754

U-2 Spyplane Incident Activities

1. Close Reading: President Eisenhower during the Cold War
2. Approaching the Brink: Considering Risk in Decision-making during the Cold War

Photos regarding U-2

1. Prototype Fallout Shelter
2. Atomic Cloud Over Bikini
3. Recovered Camera Equipment
4. Children Viewing Civil Defense Display
5. Francis Gary Powers
6. Exhibition of Recovered Materials
7. Exhibition of Recovered Materials #2
8. Display of Recovered Materials
9. More Recovered Items Displayed

Documents related to Cold War and U-2 (Chronological)

1. [Memorandum of Conference with the President 2/10/1958](#)
2. [Memorandum from Fisher Howe to Andrew J. Goodpaster 4/22/1958](#)
3. [Memo of Conference with President Eisenhower 12/22/1958](#)
4. [CIA Report on U2 Spy Plane Vulnerability Test 3/31/1959](#)
5. [Eisenhower Memo Discussing U-2 Spy Plane 4/6/1959](#)
6. [Memo of Conference with the President Eisenhower by Andrew J. Goodpaster 7/8/1959](#)
7. [Memo Concerning U-2 Spy Plane Usage 8/25/1959](#)
8. [Memorandum of Conference with President Eisenhower 10/30/1959](#)
9. [Memo of U.S.S.R. Reconnaissance 2/12/1960](#)
10. [Memorandum by A. J. Goodpaster 4/25/1960](#)
11. [Cover Plan for Downed U-2 Flight 5/2/1960](#)
12. [Statement by the President about U-2 5/11/1960](#)
13. [Press Clipping of Moscow's Reaction to the U-2 Incident 5/13/1960](#)
14. [Memo of Conversation Regarding the U-2 Plane Crash 5/26/1960](#)
15. [Minutes of Cabinet Meeting Reviewing the U-2 Incident 5/26/1960](#)