

Video Analysis: Two Views of the Camps

This lesson is designed to expose students to two different views of the camps: the official view of the US government and the point of view of the internees themselves. In 1943 the US government produced a short film entitled [Japanese Relocation](#). In the film the government defends the internment camps as humane, emphasizing Japanese American's willingness to relocate and the democratic nature of the camps themselves. In the documentary, *Unfinished Business*, students hear from incarcerated Japanese Americans themselves. The internees emphasize the unsanitary and inhumane conditions of the camps, as well as the humiliation and anger they felt with their incarceration. Students use [Criteria Note Taking Sheet](#) to gather details from both films, and then organize information in a [Top Hat Organizer](#). Ultimately, students are asked to write a paragraph, supporting or refuting the claim: *The Japanese American camps should be called prison camps and not relocation or internment camps.*

Lesson Steps:

1. Pass out the [Criteria Note Taking Sheet](#).
2. Tell students they will take notes on two short videos, with two views on the camps. At this point you might also want to talk about how films express points of view with their use of: narration, photos, and music. You may also want to talk about the term *euphemisms* and *loaded language* and how each may apply to political points of view.
3. Show the 1943 Government video entitled, [Japanese Relocation](#). Have students use the criteria organizer.
4. Show Chapters 6 and 7 of *Unfinished Business*. Have students take notes on the criteria organizer.
5. Discuss both clips with students, allowing students to add to their notes.
6. Have students transfer details to the [Top Hat Organizer](#).
7. Finally, students write an [argumentative paragraph](#), supporting or refuting the claim, *The Japanese American camps should be called prison camps and not relocation or internment camps.*