

ACTIVITY (TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS)

Did the Serbian Government Meet the Austrian Demands?

Overview

In this activity, students debate the following proposition: **The Austrian Government Should Have Accepted the Serbian Responses as Meeting Its Demands.**

Handouts for each student:

Reading: **A Fire Waiting to Be Lit: The Origins of World War I Demands and Responses (Student Instructions)**
The 10 Austrian Demands and the Serbian Response to Each Demand

Procedure

1. Explain that before World War I started, Austria issued 10 demands to Serbia. When Serbia failed to comply with all 10 demands, Austria declared war on Serbia, which led to the Great War. Tell students that they are going to debate this proposition: **The Austrian Government Should Have Accepted the Serbian Responses as Meeting Its Demands.**
2. Divide the class into small groups. Assign half the groups the pro side and the other half the con side. Distribute the handouts.
3. Review the **Student Instructions**, going over how the debate will be conducted and what each group is supposed to do. Answer any questions students may have.
4. You (the teacher) should moderate and judge the debate. When students are ready, ask a pro-group to give an opening argument. Then ask a con-group to respond to the argument. Then ask a con-group to make an argument, and ask a pro-group to respond. Continue until all the groups have been called on.

Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

Speaking and Listening

Comprehension and Collaboration:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1
Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2
Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.4
Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.6
Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Reading

Key Ideas and Details:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2
Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.8
Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades [9-10 or 11-12] topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.a

Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.b

Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.c

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.d

Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence, conveying a clear and distinct perspective, such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning, alternative or opposing perspectives are addressed, and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and a range of formal and informal tasks.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Did the Serbian Government Meet the Austrian Demands?

The Austrian government issued 10 demands following the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. The Serbian government quickly responded to each demand, but the Austrian government rejected the response because the Serbs did not comply with every demand. The demands and responses are on the handout: **The 10 Austrian Demands and the Serbian Response to Each Demand**.

You are going to debate the following proposition: **The Austrian Government Should Have Accepted the Serbian Responses as Meeting Its Demands**.

Your teacher will moderate and judge the debate. The teacher will call on:

- (1) A pro-group to make an opening argument.
- (2) A con-group to respond to the argument.
- (3) A con-group to make an argument.
- (4) A pro-group to respond to the argument.

The debate will continue until all the groups have been called on. Then the teacher will announce the winning side of the debate.

Try to limit your arguments to no longer than 30 seconds each.

Your group is taking the following side (circle your assigned side): PRO CON

Your group should do the following:

1. Develop an argument, citing evidence from **The 10 Austrian Demands and the Serbian Response to Each Demand** and also from the article that support your position.
2. Anticipate arguments from the other side and provide counterarguments, again citing evidence from the documents and the article.
3. Consider the following in your arguments and counterarguments:
 - The reasonableness of the demands and responses.
 - Whether Serbia did its best to comply with the demands.
 - The tone of the demands and responses.
4. Prepare your arguments. Make sure each one lasts no more than 30 seconds.

THE 10 AUSTRIAN DEMANDS AND THE SERBIAN RESPONSE TO EACH DEMAND

Two weeks after the murder of Archduke Ferdinand, the Austro-Hungarian government presented Serbia with 10 demands and gave it 48 hours to comply with them. Below are the Austrian demands and the Serbian response to each demand. The prefatory and concluding language from each side has been omitted.

	Austrian Demands	The Serbian Response to the Demands
1.	Suppress every publication that incites hatred and contempt of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the general tendency directed against the territorial integrity of the latter.	The government will introduce at the first regular meeting of the National Assembly a law severely punishing the press if it incites hatred and contempt of the Monarchy as well as any publication whose general tendency is directed against the territorial integrity of Austria-Hungary. It promises in the upcoming revision of the Constitution to introduce in Article XXII of the Constitution an amendment so that the above publications can be confiscated, which is currently impossible under Article XII of the Constitution.
2.	Immediately dissolve the association Narodna Odbrana, confiscate all its propaganda, and intervene in the same manner against other clubs and associations in Serbia that produce propaganda against Austria-Hungary; the Serbian Government must take the necessary measures to ensure that the dissolved associations not continue about their business in a different name or form.	The government has no evidence – and the note of Royal Imperial Government does not contain any evidence either – that the society Narodna Odbrana and similar societies or their members have committed any criminal acts. Nevertheless, the Serbian Government will accept the request of the Royal Imperial Government and dissolve the society Narodna Odbrana and any other society that would act against Austria-Hungary.
3.	Eliminate without delay from public instruction in Serbia, both from teachers and teaching aids, everything that serves or could serve to nourish propaganda against Austria-Hungary.	The Serbian Government promises to eliminate without delay from public instruction in Serbia all that is or might be propaganda directed against Austria-Hungary, when the Royal Imperial Government provides evidence of this propaganda.
4.	Remove from the military and civil service all officers who are guilty of carrying out propaganda against Austria-Hungary, whose names Austria-Hungary reserves the right to notify the Serbian Government when presenting the material evidence to Serbia.	The Serbian Government will dismiss those military and civil service officers proven guilty of acts directed against the territorial integrity of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and it expects that the Royal Imperial Government communicate to it for the purpose of beginning the investigation the names and facts about these officers.
5.	Agree to cooperate in Serbia with organs of the Royal Imperial Government in suppressing the subversive movement aimed against the territorial integrity of the monarchy.	The Serbian Government does not understand the meaning and scope of the demand of the Royal Imperial Government that Serbia agree to accept on its territory the collaboration of government organs of the Royal Imperial Government, but it will cooperate as long as it does not run counter to international law, criminal procedure, and good neighborly relations.

Did the Serbian Government Meet the Austrian Demands?

THE 10 AUSTRIAN DEMANDS AND THE SERBIAN RESPONSE TO EACH DEMAND

	Austrian Demands	The Serbian Response to the Demands
6.	Initiate a judicial inquiry against those participating in the conspiracy of June 28 who are on Serbian territory; delegated institutions from the Royal Imperial Government will participate in these proceedings.	The Serbian Government considers it its duty to open an investigation against all those persons who may have been involved in the conspiracy of June 28 and who are on its territory. As for the Austro-Hungarian authorities participation in this investigation, the Serbian Government cannot accept it, because it would violate the Constitution and the law on criminal procedure. Yet in some cases papers on the results of the investigation might be given to Austro-Hungarian officials.
7.	Arrest right away Major Vojislav Tankosic and a certain Milan Ciganovic, a Serbian state employee, who have been compromised by the results of the investigation.	On the night it received the note, the Serbian Government ordered the arrest of Major Vojislav Tankosic. As for Milan Ciganovic, who is a subject of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and who until June 15 was employed on the railways, it has not yet found him and a warrant has been issued against him. The Royal Imperial Government is asked to supply as soon as possible the grounds for suspicion and any evidence of guilt collected so far by the investigation at Sarajevo.
8.	Prevent by effective measures the participation of Serbian authorities in the smuggling of weapons and explosives across the border; dismiss from the service and punish severely those members of the Frontier Service of Schabatz and Losnitza who helped the authors of the crime of Sarajevo cross over the border.	The Serbian Government will strengthen and extend measures taken to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and explosives across the border. Obviously it will proceed at once and punish severely those officials on the Schabatz-Losnitza border who violated their duty and allowed the perpetrators of the crime to cross the border.
9.	Explain to the Royal Imperial Government the unjustifiable utterances of high Serbian functionaries in Serbia and abroad, who despite their official position, did not hesitate to express their hostility toward Austria-Hungary since the assassination on 28 June.	The Serbian Government is ready to explain the expressions that its officials in Serbia and abroad made in interviews after the outrage and which, according to the assertion of the Royal Imperial Government, were hostile to the Monarchy. As soon as the Royal Imperial Government shows where those expressions were made and proves they were made in fact by the functionaries, the Serbian Government will take care to gather evidence and prosecute them.
10.	Without delay, inform the Royal Imperial Government of the execution of the foregoing points.	The Serbian Government shall inform the Royal Imperial Government of the implementation of measures that have not already been done as soon as the measures have been ordered and executed.

Did the Serbian Government Meet the Austrian Demands?