



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Lynching** (v.) - A form of violence in which a mob, under the pretext of administering justice without trial, executes a presumed offender, often after inflicting torture and corporal mutilation.
2. **Hate Crime** (n.) - A crime, typically one involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds..
3. **Mandatory Sentencing** (n.) - Sentences which a judicial officer is required to impose regardless of the circumstances of the offense.
4. **Jim Crow Era** (n.) - Racial segregation and discrimination enforced by laws, customs, and practices in especially the southern states of the U.S. from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 until the mid-20th century.
5. **Emmett Till** - A young African American boy who was murdered at the age of 14 in a racist attack that shocked many people in the U.S. and served as part of the catalyst for the emerging Civil Rights Movement..

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What is lynching?
- What is the historical context of lynching within the United States?
- What is the modern day context of lynching within the United States?
- How are hate crimes different and similar to other criminal statutes?
- How is the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act related to other hate crime laws?
- What is the history of anti-lynching bills in the United States? In your opinion, why do you believe it took so many years for an anti-lynching bill to become law?
- In your opinion, in what ways, if any, will the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act impact U.S. society?