**Subject area/course**: History/World History or U.S. History

**Grade level/band**: 10-12

**Task source**: Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC)

**Historical Aspects of Hatred in Conflict**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

When we study wars, genocide, and conflicts in your history classes, we usually study the who, when, where, why, and how. As part of the exploration of these historic events, we learn that people disagree for a variety of reasons, but one common underlying feeling that can be identified across cultures and conflicts is hatred of the "other." Rulers and leaders, military generals and governors, newspaper editors and ideologues have worked to portray the enemy as bad, evil, and wrong. The result is often that people unite against an enemy. How does hatred work in propelling conflicts? This task asks you to explore that question.

You will be assigned or choose a historical event to research. Your job is to research the role that hatred played in the event by using a poem entitled “Hatred” by Wislawa Szymborska to focus and guide your research.

The poem, “Hatred,” uses personification to describe the role of hatred in history. Your task is to explain how the poem relates to your event. After reading the poem, choose at least four of the stanzas to respond to. Describe how each stanza explains the roots, the growth, the fruition, and future seeds of hatred reflected by the specific actions during your event. You may also include citations and evidence from your research.

After you have explained the four stanzas of the poem in relation to your historic event, summarize what you think the overall role of hatred is in a conflict. Conclude with your personal reflections on how to prevent hatred or identify a brewing conflict and explain how the ways of hatred might be avoided.

1. **Final product**:

An essay that includes your explanation of how the four poem stanzas relate to your historical event and the overall role of hatred in conflict. Include your personal reflections on how to potentially prevent hatred in a brewing conflict. Be sure to cite any sources you use from your research.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

You will need to be able to:

* Analyze poetry
* Research the major issues of a conflict
* Apply abstract ideas to concrete events
* Develop and express your personal opinion

1. **Materials needed:**

You will need:

* Access to the library or computers with Internet access for research
* A copy of the translated poem “Hatred” by Wislawa Szymborska, provided by your instructor
* Two documents to be completed during this task
* Word processing software to type your essay

1. **Time requirements:**

You will have approximately one week of research time to learn about the historic event and complete your paper.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the Hatred in Conflict rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.