**McCarthyism Webquest**

**Step 1: Make Mine Freedom Video**

1. According to the opening of the cartoon, what is the purpose of this film? Is the opening statement a fact or a claim? Why?
2. What scenes are used to depict typical American life after WWII? Pay attention to all details: consider setting/location, facial illustrations, color (esp. sky), music, etc What is the general tone of the descriptions given of American life and culture?
3. What do the four main American characters symbolize or represent? How is the salesman depicted?
4. Notice the contract. What’s on it? What do they symbolize? What does the contract stipulate?
5. “Joe Doakes” (an average citizen), creates capitalism. What are the three components to capitalism as alluded to in the film?
6. What are two of the outcomes the four men suffer after drinking the Ism?

**Step 2: HUAC interviews**

Watch the excerpts of the HUAC interviews. Briefly describe each one. What kind of questions are they asked? How do each of the men respond?

**Step 3: Historical Readings**

[Reading #1](http://www.ushistory.org/us/53a.asp)

1. What state was Joseph McCarthy a Senator of?
2. What does the term "blacklisting" refer to?
3. Who ordered background checks of government officials in 1947? Did they find anything?
4. How many communists did McCarthy claim worked for the department of state?
5. Who were some other victims (organizations etc.) that McCarthyism had an effect on? What actions resulted from this attention?

[Reading #2](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456/)

1. According to Joseph McCarthy, why were Americans still threatened after the victory in World War II?
2. What evidence did McCarthy provide to argue that communism is a growing force around the world?
3. What were some examples of McCarthy's use of dramatic language?

[Reading #3](https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~lillsie/McCarthyism/downfall.html)

1. What caused McCarthy's downfall?
2. What happened to McCarthy after his censure?

**Step 4: Political Cartoons**

Choose two of the political cartoons and explain its message as it relates to McCarthyism.

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**Step 5: Your Turn!**

Now that you've researched McCarthy and the era surrounding him, imagine that YOU have been accused by Joe McCarthy as being a communist. How would you feel? Write a newspaper editorial OR poem OR draw a political cartoon based on what you feel it might be like to be subject to one of McCarthy's trials.