



Questions for Classroom Discussion

The Holiday Dilemma

What makes a celebration a national holiday?

- What makes a celebration worthy to be a national holiday?
- Consider why some days have been denied national holiday status
- Consider the "red tape" that exists for a holiday to gain official status

National Holidays (2014)

*1/1 New Year's Day
1/20 MLK Jr. Day
2/17 Washington's Birthday
5/26 Memorial Day
7/4 Independence Day
9/1 Labor Day
10/13 Columbus Day
11/11 Veteran's Day
11/27 Thanksgiving Day
12/25 Christmas Day*

What are the so-called "benefits" of national holidays?

- Consider that people who work for the government receive paid vacation
- Consider that one federal holiday costs \$400 million in employee pay and lost productivity, and this money is essentially paid by the taxpayers.
- Consider the argument that national holidays give people a chance to rest. Do you think this is true?

Is it worthwhile to fight for the approval of a national holiday?

- Consider the effort and time that was taken for past holidays to be approved.
- Consider that even when a holiday is considered "national", state governments can still choose whether their particular state will observe the holiday.