

United States History and Government
Kailua High School
Social Studies Requirement
2017-2018
Mr. Wilson

Hidden Figures. Fox 2000 Pictures. 2016.

Instructions: Write a paragraph about Hidden Figures that identifies the time period of the movie, the main character(s) and the main plot. Include one of the subplots that makes the movie relevant to US History. Include outside information from one or more of the articles you have received. Use footnoting format to cite which article you are using as outside information. Use the above citation of Hidden Figures as the title of your paragraph.

For Example: Hidden Figures portrays the lives of three women, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson who represent both the struggles of African-Americans to be accepted into American society, and the victories of women to be recognized as full partners in American life. Although the movie is not “The True Story...[of] Forgotten Women”¹ in American life, the story presents to students of history American entanglements of the 1960s ideologies of the Cold War. Fueling the tension of the Cold War, the protagonists of the movie are engaged in mathematical, programming, and engineering problems of the Space Race. The movie uses a segment of President Kennedy’s “Moon Speech”² to emphasize that every American can contribute to what America means as an historical entity who does what is necessary to protect space from

¹ Maya Wei-Hass. “The True Story of ‘Hidden Figures,’ the Forgotten Women Who Helped Win the Space Race.” Smithsonian.com. December 29, 2016. The movie does not include what is “capture[d] in Shetterly’s book...” The victories of African-America women are sweeter when juxtaposed, as in the book, to “outside of the workplace [where] they faced many more problems [than segregated bathrooms], including segregated busses and dilapidated schools.” 5.

² John F. Kennedy Moon Speech – Rice Stadium. September 12, 1962.
<https://er.jsc.nasa.gov/seh/ricetalk.htm>

the “hostile flag of conquest” of the Soviet Union. Thus, the successful launch and orbiting of John Glenn—and its symbolic protection of “freedom and peace”³ for the world--could not have been accomplished without the genius and intelligence of American women of color.

³ ibid. “Those who came before us made certain that this country rode the first waves of the industrial revolutions, the first waves of modern invention, and the first wave of nuclear power, and this generation does not intend to founder in the backwash of the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it--we mean to lead it. For the eyes of the world now look into space, to the moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.”