

## GED Ready™: The Official Practice Test - Social Studies Extended Response Prompts and Source Texts

The enclosed source texts are drawn directly from the Extended Response (ER) tasks on GED Ready™ - Social Studies. In those ER tasks, students are asked to analyze the relationship between a quotation and a passage in an essay-length response. We provide these source texts so that you may refer to them as your score your students' responses.

Use these source texts in conjunction with other Social Studies Extended Response scoring resources for educators, including the:

- Educator Scoring Tool for GED Ready™ - Social Studies
- Extended Response Resource Guide for Educators - Social Studies

Both tools are available at: <http://www.gedtesting.com/2014testresources>.

Things to keep in mind when using these materials:

1. The stimulus materials for both the A and B versions of GED Ready™ - Social Studies are included. You can determine which version of the test your students took by reviewing their written responses.
2. Students' written responses are available in each student's Enhanced Score Report under the "Review My Written Answers" section. Ask each student to print out his or her score report and give you a copy, which you can then use to score the response.
3. Only use these source texts for the purpose of scoring student GED Ready™ responses. If you give students these source texts before taking GED Ready™, it may compromise the accuracy of their scores and the ability of the GED Ready™ to predict their scores on the operational GED® test.

### **IMPORTANT!**

Before using these materials you must visit

<http://www.gedtesting.com/stimulus-opt-in> to review and accept the terms of use.

**Stimulus Material: GED Ready™ - Social Studies Version A**

Quotation

“Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties.”  
– John Milton, 1644

Speech

*In this excerpt from a 1917 speech, given six months after the United States entered World War I, Senator Robert M. La Follette defends his right to speak out against the war.*

More than in times of peace it is necessary that the channels for free public discussion of governmental policies shall be open and unclogged. I believe, Mr. President, that I am now touching upon the most important question in this country today -- and that is the right of the citizens of this country and their representatives in Congress to discuss in an orderly way, frankly and publicly and without fear... about every important phase of this war; its causes, and manner in which it should be conducted, and the terms upon which peace should be made...

[O]ur Government, above all others, is founded on the right of the people freely to discuss all matters pertaining to their Government, in war not less than in peace. It is true, sir, that Members of the House of Representatives are elected for two years, the President for four years, and the Members of the Senate for six years, and during their temporary official terms these officers constitute what is called the Government.

But back of them always is the controlling, sovereign power of the People, and when the people can make their will known, the faithful officer will obey that will. Though the right of the People to express their will by ballot is suspended during the term office of the elected official, nevertheless the duty of the official to obey the popular will shall continue throughout his entire term of office. How can that popular will express itself between elections except by meetings, by speeches, by publications, by petitions, and by addresses to the representatives of the people?

Any man who seeks to set a limit upon those rights, whether in war or peace, aims a blow at the most vital part of our Government...

**Prompt**

In your response, develop an argument about how Senator La Follette’s position in his speech reflects the enduring issue expressed in the quotation from Milton. Incorporate relevant and specific evidence from the quotation, the speech, and your own knowledge of the enduring issue and the circumstances surrounding U.S. entry into World War I to support your analysis.

**Stimulus Material: GED Ready™ - Social Studies Version B**

Quotation

“No government ought to be without censors; and where the press is free no one ever will.”  
– Thomas Jefferson, 1792

Editorial

*In 1971, the Justice Department of the United States tried to prevent the New York Times from publishing The Pentagon Papers – a collection of secret documents that revealed deceptions in what presidents had told Americans about the Vietnam War.*

*The Washington Sentinel*  
Edition

Morning  
June 26, 1971

An open letter to our readers and the American Public:

Today the Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments in the case of *New York Times Co. v. United States*. It is the opinion of this newspaper that the Court’s ruling will determine the future of First Amendment freedoms in the United States. For the first time since our Republic was founded, the federal courts are being asked to rule that the American press is not truly free and that the government can halt the publication of news that is critically important to its citizens.

Our Founders protected the press precisely so it could expose the secrets of government and inform the people. It is obvious that chief among the responsibilities of a free press is revealing deception in cases where the country is sending its young people overseas to die. By pulling back the curtain on the workings of government that brought us further and further into Vietnam’s civil war, the press has performed its most important function.

The Pentagon Papers include information about the deceptions of the government over four administrations from 1945 to 1968. Government embarrassment over its actions and the wish to continue to cover up does not constitute a threat to national security. Rather, what is a threat to our nation’s citizens and our country’s future is the possibility that is being considered in court this very day. Should the Court rule that the government can order newspapers to stop publishing portions of its report, it will no longer be possible to have a fully enlightened citizenry. The first of many important rights will have been compromised and the vision our Founders had for this nation will be no more.

Lance A. Matthews

Editor-in-chief

**Prompt**

In your response, develop an argument about how the author's position in his editorial reflects the enduring issue expressed in the quotation from Jefferson. Incorporate relevant and specific evidence from the quotation, the editorial, and your own knowledge of the enduring issue and the circumstances surrounding the Pentagon Papers and their publication to support your analysis.