

## Lesson Five: WWI -WWII: Working Conditions at the Springfield Armory

**Grades:** 9-12

**Time Allotment:** 1 50-minute period

**Curriculum Area:** 20<sup>th</sup> Century History

**Rationale:** Through role play characters from History come to life. By participating in a role play of women workers at the Springfield Armory during the World Wars students will realize that these women were people and not just statistics.

**Objective:** For students to gain a greater understanding of women workers at the Springfield Armory during the World Wars.

### Standards:

USII.6 Analyze the causes and course of America's growing role in world affairs from the Civil War to World War I.

J. American Entry into World War I

USII.17 Explain important domestic events that took place during the war. (WWII)

C. the entry of large numbers of women into the workforce

### Materials:

- Role play questions (in case students forget theirs)

### Procedures:

#### Introduction

Have students divide into two groups. approx. 3 min

Reporters on one side.

Workers on the other.

#### Focus

Reporters question the workers using the Role Play Questions. approx. 15 min

Reporters deliberate. approx. 5 min

Reporters identify which workers are WWI and which are WWII. 10 min.

Reporters should provide explanations for their identifications.

Workers should divide into WWI and WWII groups based on

identifications

Workers reveal whether reporters were right. approx. 5 min

Workers should join their actual groups.

Bring class back together. approx. 1 min

Class discussion on women workers during WWI and WWII. approx. 10 min

What have we learned?

How are the groups similar?

How are they different?

#### Closure

Announce that class will be starting a research project tomorrow. approx. 1 min

Will explore these groups further.

**Differentiated Learning:** Male (or female) students who feel uncomfortable playing women's parts may play the roles of male Armory workers during the periods. These students will be required to accurately reflect popular opinion towards women workers.

**Assessment:** Students will be assessed either on their ability to accurately role play workers from WWI or WWI or on their ability to accurately identify workers from WWI or WWII.