

# THE SINGING REVOLUTION



**Subjects:** English Language Arts

## **“Patience is a Weapon, Caution a Virtue”**

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### **Aim / Essential Question**

How do we write a “critical lens” essay based on *The Singing Revolution*?

### **Overview**

In this lesson we take a quotation –“patience is a weapon, caution a virtue”– from this documentary and use it as a “lens” to analyze the historical events depicted. The task is to write a basic four-paragraph essay in which the students apply the quotation to the film. Particular attention will be paid to teaching an appropriate introduction for a critical lens essay.

### **Materials & Technology**

- *The Singing Revolution* (entire film)  
(from Disc One / Play Film)
- Critical lens Worksheet  
(below)
- Viewing Guide for *The Singing Revolution*. This is a stand-alone essay, and should be written after the class has viewed the entire film in previous periods.  
(below)
- Any DVD-compatible player
- A television or video projection unit

**Lesson Time:** One 50-minute class period after film is viewed in its entirety, and the film is assigned as homework. Three 50-minute classes if the film is viewed in class (allowing two classes to view the 97-minute film).

### **Objectives**

Students will:

- Evaluate and analyze the events depicted in the film.
- Identify events in the documentary that relate to the quotation.
- Write a critical essay based upon their analyses of the film.

### **Instruction**

#### **Opening:** Do Now

Write a paragraph about a time you acted too quickly or too impulsively, and then came to regret your action. In a second paragraph discuss how you could have handled the situation in a better way.

#### **Activities**

Assignment: Based upon the film, write a critical lens essay in which you apply the quotation, “patience is a weapon, caution a virtue,” to the experiences of the Estonian people and their political leadership.

1. Students examine the critical lens by jotting down ideas in response to the following questions. (This can be done individually or in small groups.)
  - What does the quotation mean?
  - Do I agree with it? Is it true, generally-speaking?
  - More specifically, is it true of the events depicted in *The Singing Revolution*?
  - What examples in the film support the truth or falsity of this quotation? Note the names and titles of the events and individuals you plan to include in your essay.
2. Write Introduction. Students are to write the introductory paragraph in the following format:
  - First, begin by quoting the critical lens. For example: According to the narrator of *The Singing Revolution*, “Patience is a weapon, caution a virtue.”
  - Second, interpret the meaning of the critical lens. For example: My interpretation of this quotation is ...
  - Third, agree or disagree with the critical lens, and say why. Make this a general statement at this point. For example: I agree with this statement because life teaches us that when we act too quickly, we often end up regretting our actions.
  - Fourth, narrow the focus by making a thesis, (a point), that relates the critical lens to the events of the film. For example: The historic events depicted in *The Singing Revolution* demonstrate how Estonians used patience and caution, not immediate violence, to achieve independence from the Soviet Union.
3. Write First Body Paragraph. Students are to write the first body paragraph, in which the topic will be the Estonian people. How does the critical lens apply to them? After identifying the topic of this body paragraph in the first sentence, they are to substantiate the thesis with details and example(s).
4. Write Second Body Paragraph. Students are to write the second body paragraph, again by beginning with a topic sentence. The topic for this body paragraph will be the Estonian political leadership. How does the critical lens apply to them?
5. Write Conclusion. Students are to conclude the essay by first summarizing or restating the thesis, and finishing with a closing statement.

### **Homework**

Make revisions on the first draft and then write a revised draft of this essay.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

### Viewing Guide

**"Patience is a weapon, caution a virtue."**

	ESTONIAN PEOPLE	ESTONIAN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
<b>ONE</b> Example of patience or caution, and how it benefited or failed to benefit the freedom movement in Estonia.		
<b>TWO</b> Example of patience or caution, and how it benefited or failed to benefit the freedom movement in Estonia.		
<b>THREE</b> Example of patience or caution, and how it benefited or failed to benefit the freedom movement in Estonia.		

Other information from the film that might be useful in my essay: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Lens Essay Worksheet

**“Patience is a weapon, caution a virtue.”**

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this step-by-step guide to help you develop and write your essay.

**INTRODUCTION:** (Paragraph 1)

Write the Introduction. Students are to write the introductory paragraph in the following format:

- First, begin by quoting the critical lens. For example: According to V.S. Naipaul in his novel *A Bend in the River*, “The world is what it is; men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in it.”

1. Write the critical lens quote and the documentary name. In this case, attribute the quote to the narrator.

Quote: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentary Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the quote mean? Explain in your own words what you think it means.

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3. Do you agree or disagree with the quote? Why / Why not?

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4. Give your controlling idea (thesis). In other words, simply state how the quotation relates or fails to relate to the film.

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**BODY (Paragraph 2)**

1. Form a topic sentence that relates the quote to the experiences of the Estonian people. The topic sentence indicates to the reader what the rest of the paragraph is about.

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2. Substantiate your position with one or two examples from the documentary.

Example #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Example #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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**BODY (Paragraph 3)**

1. Form a topic sentence that relates the quote to the experiences of the Estonian political leadership.

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2. Substantiate your position with one or two examples from the documentary.

Example #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Example #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONCLUSION (Paragraph 4)**

Your conclusion should:

- Restate your interpretation of the quote.
- Summarize your arguments, indicating whether you agreed or disagreed with the quotation.
- Include a closing statement that wraps up your essay in a catchy or interesting manner.