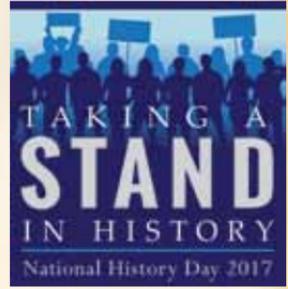


## Taking a Stand in Politics

### Introduction

National History Day is a yearlong program engaging more than half a million students in the research, writing, interpretation, and presentation of historical projects at a regional, state, and national level. Each year thousands of Oklahoma students become young historians through participation in this program. Here is one activity that can help you be a young historian, too!



### Finding Facts in Primary Sources

#### Suggested Grades

6-12

#### Overview

Historians use numerous sources to learn about the past. Historic photos can be useful tools as they provide a unique glimpse into daily life during a different time. Photos can tell us about people, places, and culture of a time period and geographic region.

#### Objectives

Students will analyze historic photos. This activity will help students examine life as it is reflected through this source. Students will use the photos to draw conclusions about the people and society during this time period in Oklahoma.

#### Time Needed

- Analyzing photos: 15 minutes
- Discussion: 20 minutes
- Follow-up activity: 30 minutes

#### Materials Needed

Access to internet

#### Instructions

1. Analyze the photos of Governor Alfalfa Bill Murray and the National Guard at the bridge between Oklahoma and Texas
2. Have students write down three things that they noticed in the photos.
3. Re-analyze the photos.
4. Have students divide into small groups and answer the following questions:
  - a. Why were these photos taken? Who might have taken them?
  - b. Who were the people in the photos? What were they doing? Where are they? What did you notice about their job? Their clothing? Their attitude/demeanor?
  - c. What did these photos show you about the politics in Oklahoma? What evidence tells you that?
  - d. What do these photos say about life during this time? What about the people? Do you think this reflects American society as a whole? Why or why not?
5. Have groups share thoughts with the class.
6. Follow-up activity: Pretend you are a reporter for this historic event. Write an article to tell everyone what is happening.

#### Additional Information

To learn more about National History Day in Oklahoma, you can contact us at 405-522-0785 or visit [www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday](http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday).

