STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



Zoot Suit Riots (11.7.5)

Background:

In the early years of World War II racial tensions mounted in the cities. Los Angeles would become a site where this tension would boil over. The summer of 1943 saw this conflict increase to the point where groups of sailors and Mexican Americans would battle in what would be called the Zoot Suit Riots.

Prompt:

What caused the Zoot Suit Riots?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least five pieces of evidence from the documents, background reading, and additional research on the events surrounding the Zoot Suit Riots.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate at least two additional pieces of evidence from the documents and/or your research that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.