The “Dot” Activity
Directions:

- You will participate in an activity in which you will form groups based on your secret identities.
- You will each receive a piece of paper:
  - Some are blank
  - Some have a dot drawn on them
  - There are fewer dots than non-dots
- When you receive your piece of paper you must secretly look at it. If you receive a dot you must not reveal it to anyone.
  - When you are done looking hide it or put it in your pocket.
Goal of Activity:

- The goal of the activity is to form as large of a group of “non-dot” members as possible.

Points:

- The largest group of “non-dot” students will win points.
- The whole group will lose if there is one “dot” member in your group.
- “Dot” members will win points for being the only dot in a group.
Advice:

- Since everyone in the class will deny having a dot you must look for any indication of suspicion.
- If you suspect someone has a dot you should say out loud, “Bob is a dot!”
- If you are a “Dot” then you must bluff to convince others that you are not a dot.
Ready?

- What questions do you have?

- On GO: You have 5 minutes to talk to each other and form groups with “non-dot” members.

- When I turn off the lights, you must freeze in your place and talking must end immediately. No exceptions.
Online Stopwatch
This activity was designed to allow you to experience the anti-communism hysteria and suspicion of the McCarthy Era in U.S. History during the 1950’s.

During this era, Americans turned on their fellow citizens and denounced them as Communist sympathizers based on little to no evidence.

If you were a “dot,” what were you?

Guilt by Association: If students were friends with suspected “dots,” they were accused of being “dots.”
Now you will learn about anti-communism during the 1950’s & the McCarthy Era

Worksheet
Watch Him!
HUAC & the Hollywood Ten

- HUAC- House Un-American Activities Committee
  - Congressional Committee whose original purpose was to investigate ALL radical groups in the U.S., including fascist and socialist, but over time it came to focus only on the communist threat.

- Hollywood Ten was a group of screenwriters who were accused of being Communist during the McCarthy Era

- They did not cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee's investigation,
  - They refused to admit to being in the Communist Party
  - They wouldn’t provide any names of others who might be Communists

- Punished!
  - The ten were fined and sentenced to a year in jail.
  - They were also blacklisted from working in the film industry in Hollywood, until the 1960's when the ban was lifted.
Hollywood Ten:
Protester to Free the Hollywood Ten
What was the artist trying to communicate about HUAC in this cartoon?

What does the car represent?

What is happening to the people who are in the car’s path?
McCarthyism
Who is Joseph McCarthy?

- Republican Senator
- Famous anti-Communist activists

Why did he do this?
- He wanted to be reelected, so he needed a good issue
- He claimed that Communists were taking over the government
  - Claimed he had a list of 205 known Communist working in the U.S. Department of State.

His tactics:
- Sensationalism
- Bullying
McCarthyism:

- The practice of publicizing accusations of political disloyalty with little to no evidence
- 1950-1954
- What happened then?
  - People got sick of it!
  - They didn’t like the way he treated people in the courts.
How did the TV help/hurt McCarthy?
ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

- What should our country’s leaders be more focused on protecting – security of the nation or freedom of the nation’s people? Should this change? Should it remain the same? Why?