



Name _____ Date _____

THE *TUSKEGEE* AIRMEN

PART I: The Double V Campaign

In 1942, the *Pittsburgh Courier* launched the Double V Campaign, running a number of articles, letters, and photos in support of racial and social justice. Read the following excerpt from one editorial and answer the questions below.

This is not a campaign waged by colored citizens alone; it is a campaign waged by all citizens, regardless of color.

Every thoughtful American realizes that the independence of this nation depends upon victory for our armies against the forces of totalitarianism abroad on a dozen fronts.

It is widely understood that at home democracy may perish unless every one of us is unusually vigilant.

If we are to have no democracy at home, it does not make a great deal of difference what happens abroad.

Victory for democracy abroad means beating the armies of Hitler, Mussolini, and The Mikado.

Victory for democracy at home means beating disfranchisement, racial pollution laws, residential segregation, economic discrimination based on color, jim-crowism, social and educational inequalities, and all efforts to curtail or abolish the safeguards of the Bill of Rights.

"The Double V Campaign," Pittsburgh Courier, March 28, 1942

1. Summarize the Double V Campaign in your own words.



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2. Do you think this editorial would have persuaded many Americans to fight for racial equality? Why or why not?

3. Do you think the Double V Campaign is still relevant in America today? Why or why not?



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PART II: Perspectives

Imagine you are a pilot who just finished training at the Tuskegee Institute. Write a letter to a family member or friend describing your experience. How do you feel? What is going through your mind? What are you looking forward to? What are you nervous about?

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