

READ ME FIRST!

Introductory Remarks:

This PowerPoint slide presentation, with accompanying handouts, is designed as an intensive 1½- to 2-hour workshop. It is aimed particularly for those approaching their 18th birthday--who must soon register with Selective Service. Others are asked to be “18 year olds at heart” imaging themselves at this stage of life. The workshop includes information, discussion, and reflection that can be used by teachers, counselors, parents, and young persons. It originated from a curriculum* designed for Quakers (Religious Society of Friends), but it has been expanded for young adults of all faiths and commitments. To be as inclusive as possible, we use the generic term *support community*, referring not just to any of the three main faiths (Christian, Jewish, and Islam), but to any community, religious, ethical, or moral that provides a support to the development of any young person.

The presentation defines the two types of conscientious objectors (COs), those in the military and those outside the military; provides a brief history of conscientious objection and how it has evolved from requiring a basis in religious affiliation to an objection based simply on individual conscience; clarifies the definition of a CO through various U.S. Supreme Court rulings and interpretations; poses several questions for young people to consider to help them refine and articulate their inner leadings; and then suggests some methods to document these beliefs should a draft ever be reinstated and documentation be needed.

Attaining a CO classification (should a draft be reinstated) is neither guaranteed nor achievable by a simple, clearly defined process. It will be unique for each person, will vary from one draft board to another, and may even follow a completely new set of laws and procedures. Where possible, a registrant is encouraged to get the support of his or her faith community, as well as any organizations specializing in selective service and draft counseling. This presentation suggests some procedures that can be adapted to each person's particular situation ahead of time in case a draft comes about.

Lastly, this workshop blends both didactic and experiential formats. From the didactic perspective, it gives definitions, procedures, and step-by-step methods to document a claim for Conscientious Objection. The exploratory aspects--discussions, role plays, and filling out questionnaires--help develop and articulate beliefs. This portion can easily be expanded to dig deeper, build confidence, and provide resilience to challenges from those who may challenge or disagree, such as local draft board.

Instructions on How To Use These Materials:

The CD has both the PowerPoint presentation and three Word documents. For those who do not have PowerPoint on their computers, this CD allows use of the file in

“read only” mode, meaning both that the presentation can be shown and that all handouts and lecture notes can be printed. “Read only” means that changes cannot be made to the original material.**

- To show the PowerPoint presentation, double click on the PowerPoint file, *Are You a CO...*. When the file loads, click on *View* from the task bar, then *Slide show* from the drop down menu. This will pull up the first slide. Slides can be advanced by using either the → or the ↓ key. To return to the previous slide use the ← or ↑ key. *Esc* exits the slide show and goes back to the original screen.
- To print out the PowerPoint presentation slides on a handout for participants, go to the *File menu* on the PowerPoint task bar and click on *Print*. On the *Print menu* screen, go to *Print what* line on bottom left quadrant of the screen and click the checkmark on the right to pull down another short menu with four options. On this, click on *Handouts*. Then go to the right bottom quadrant and choose *Six slides per page*. Finally, click the *OK* button to start printing.
- To print out the PowerPoint lecture notes for the facilitator(s), go to the same *Print menu*, click on *Notes pages* (instead of *Handouts*) at the *Print what* line, then click *OK*. The lecture notes will be printed, one per page, showing the slide on the top and the notes or lecture on the bottom. These are important! (An backup copy of *Lecture Notes* also appears as a Word document.)
- To print Word document files, double click on one of the Word files on the CD, go the *File Menu*, then click on *Print*. Choose options, then click *OK*. Do this for all three Word files: *Read Me First*, *Agenda*, and *Reference Handouts*.

Supplementary Materials Used During the Presentation:

- Both the *Selective Service Registration Form* and *Change of Information Form* are found at any local post office, usually displayed in the public area. You will need this for the PowerPoint Slide # 7.
- *Meet Sgt. Abe, the Honest Recruiter*, an adaptation of the military’s enlistment and reenlistment contract, showing the fine print often overlooked, can be downloaded from www.quakerhouse.org. You will need it for Slide #18.
- For other useful materials see <http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/default.htm>.

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Curt A. Torell

* *Raising Conscientious Objector Consciousness among Our Youth: Six Lesson Plans for U.S. Friends in High School First Day Programs* by Curt Torell and Alice Carlton published through Quaker Press. You can either purchase this curriculum or download it for free from Quaker Press at www.FGCQuaker.org.

** Thanks also to *ClickArt* by Broderbund for their wonderful figures.