

THEMES FOR DISCUSSION: A GOOD WORK ETHIC

Questions to Discuss

1. What did Sen. Byrd do to better his life financially?
2. What are some of the jobs that Byrd had?
3. If Byrd did not have a strong work ethic, how might his life have been different?
4. Do you think Robert C. Byrd would have been as successful if he were born today?

In Their Own Words

1. Robert C. Byrd has said, *“The only paths to success are education and hard work.”*
What do you think he meant by this statement?
2. Someone said Sen. Byrd’s career proves that difficulties and obstacles can be overcome by an individual possessed of a dream, the determination to make that dream come true, and the willingness to work hard to achieve that dream.

Give some examples from Byrd’s life that prove this statement is true.

3. Senate Majority Leader Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., has said of Robert C. Byrd, *“Senator Byrd’s life story could be summarized in one sentence: Yes, you can. Because I think that’s what it says. It says to people all over this country you can become all that you want to be if you’ve got the dedication, persistence, and the character required. . . .”*

Do you have a goal for your life? What will you have to do to achieve that goal?

4. Former Sen. Robert Dole has said of Byrd, *“He is the most single-minded, hard-working person I have probably ever dealt with. I can remember when an issue was going to be called up in September, him calling me in January or February to talk out what he was going to do and how he was going to do it. He was prepared. That was his life.”*

Why is it important to be prepared? How do you prepare for a major test or project?

Individual and/or Group Activities

1. Robert Byrd has said the secret of the great Roman legions was due to stern discipline. Research the early history of Rome and list characteristics that made the civilization great.
2. Finding a job was difficult during the 1930s. Research the Great Depression to find out how unemployment affected the country.
3. Interview some prospective employers. Ask them what characteristics they want in prospective employees.
4. Survey your community to determine what jobs are available today. Predict how these will change in the future.
5. Research to find bills affecting employment that Sen. Byrd has supported.

WV STANDARDS and OBJECTIVES

- SS.10.3.5 identify the causal relationship of economic changes and their effects on the job market (e.g., supply and demand, technology, industrialization)
- SS.11.3.1 evaluate the lifestyle changes brought on by industrialization, technology and transportation (debated industrialization vs. maintaining natural environment and the implication of tourism)
- SS.11.5.5 analyze and explain the effects of the Great Depression on worldwide economic conditions