

Billy Budd: Additional Assignments, Projects and Activities

1. Students interested in military history can research the Articles of War used by the British and compare them to modern day rules of warfare, on land, sea or air. This can be a timely issue.
2. Students can research the many incidents of rule-breaking by teenagers in their efforts to effect change in what they felt to be violations of their civil rights in school. Several such cases have made their way to the Supreme Court including issues such as dress codes, political protests, religious practices and corporal punishment. Two issues of *Upfront* Magazine, published biweekly for high school students by *The New York Times*, are especially helpful for this assignment. See the September 3 and 17 issues of 2007.
3. Students can research some of the famous cases of civil disobedience in American or world history. Issues may include cases of non-violent resistance led by Martin Luther King, Alice Paul, or Mahatma Gandhi.
4. Students can analyze the artistic merit of the film.
5. Students can look for the differences between the film and the novella arriving at a conclusion about which is superior in terms of its presentation of the issues and its appeal to students today.
6. Students can defend their opinion of military justice, the death penalty, the draft or on any one of the ancillary issues brought up in the film.