How 2000 Rioters Almost Took Down a Democracy

bit.ly/LbHJan6 Runtime: 14:09



Video Guide

Guide A: Best for checking understanding of key events and details. Includes answer key with video timestamps.

Guide B: Best for active note-taking and connecting evidence to the video's big ideas. Does not include answer key, as student responses will vary.

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How 2000 Rioters Almost Took Down a Democracy

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHJan6

Comprehension Questions

1) What happened at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

2) What warning signs suggested that violence might occur on January 6, and what failures did congressional investigations identify in the government's preparation for the attack?

3) What was the purpose of the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th attack, and what types of evidence did it use to investigate the events of that day?

4) How did journalists contribute to the public's understanding of the January 6 attack, both as it happened and during the later investigations?

5) What changes resulted from the investigations into January 6, and what challenges to accountability and public agreement about the events does the video identify?

Discussion Questions

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. Democracy only works if people protect it.
2. Congress has a duty to inform the public.
3. True accountability is incredibly complex.

Which of these is the most important or lasting, and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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How 2000 Rioters Almost Took Down a Democracy ANSWER KEY

Guide A: Comprehension and Discussion Questions

https://bit.ly/LbHJan6

Comprehension Questions

1) What happened at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

On January 6, 2021, thousands of people breached the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from the routine process of certifying the Electoral College results of the 2020 presidential election. (2:50)

2) What warning signs suggested that violence might occur on January 6, and what failures did congressional investigations identify in the government's preparation for the attack?

Warning signs included online discussions about preventing certification, reports from informants, and information collected by federal agencies about potential violence. Investigations found that intelligence agencies failed to share or act sufficiently on warnings and that the Capitol's security system lacked clear coordination. (4:24)

3) What was the purpose of the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th attack, and what types of evidence did it use to investigate the events of that day?

The committee was created to investigate how the attack happened and why. It examined video and audio recordings, text messages, documents, and testimony from White House staff, government officials, and people who participated in the attack. (7:40)

4) How did journalists contribute to the public's understanding of the January 6 attack, both as it happened and during the later investigations?

Journalists documented the attack in real time, providing video footage and firsthand accounts of the violence inside the Capitol. During the investigations, media coverage of congressional hearings and witness testimony helped inform the public about the evidence gathered and the events leading up to the attack. (2:10 and 9:40)

5) What changes resulted from the investigations into January 6, and what challenges to accountability and public agreement about the events does the video identify?

The investigations contributed to reforms clarifying the vice president's role in electoral certification, improving the security of the certification process, and increasing Capitol Police funding and capacity. The Department of Justice also charged more than 1,500 people involved in the attack. However, political divisions, differing interpretations of the evidence, and declining trust in institutions made it difficult to establish a shared understanding of accountability. (11:04)

Discussion Question

The takeaways from this investigation are:

1. Democracy only works if people protect it.
2. Congress has a duty to inform the public.
3. True accountability is incredibly complex.

Which of these is the most important or lasting, and why? Do any of them still impact our lives today?

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Guide B: Evidence Graphic Organizer

Directions: As you watch the video, record facts, examples, or statements that support each takeaway.

https://bit.ly/LbHJan6

Takeaway	Fact, example, or statement to support it
Democracy only works if people protect it.	
Congress has a duty to inform the public.	
True accountability is incredibly complex.	

Which takeaway was most compelling or convincing? Circle or highlight your answer. How does this investigation (and its consequences) still impact our lives today?

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