

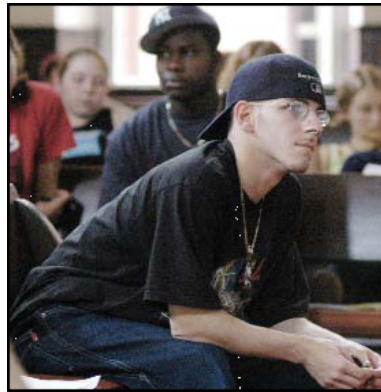
When I saw the definition of a CO, I realized I wanted to claim it. - From a CO letter writer on his experience learning about conscientious objection.

I wouldn't have known that conscientious objection existed if it wasn't for my Meeting. - A CO letter writer when asked about her experiences in a Friends Meeting learning about conscientious objection.

NEW RELEASE - Revamped 2nd Edition

Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning, Deciding, Documenting, and Defending a CO Claim with Selective Service

A Curriculum and Resource Guide
by Curt Torell, M.Div., Ph.D.



A Quaker House Publication



What: This is a resource for teens and adult facilitators with a 60-slide PowerPoint presentation in a guided format of information and activities leading to the writing of a *CO letter* that is submitted to, and hopefully accepted by, the CO's faith or support community. The letter articulates the CO's deeply held beliefs within the three criteria for conscientious objection. The curriculum is specific, detailed, comprehensive, interactive, and adaptable. See the *Table of Contents* on back.

Why: With no draft and a Selective Service registration system linked automatically to getting a driver's license in most states, the idea of military service and conscientious objection in particular is simply "out-of-sight/out-of-mind." Yet, Selective Service registration for men turning 18 (and possibly women in the future) is still required, and it is phase I of a draft. Little thought is given either to the consequences of registration or to the formulation of a peace testimony as these teens move into adulthood. Are we running the risk of raising a generation ill-prepared to articulate and document a conscientious objection claim against all war if conscription, or phase II of a draft, is re-activated. This curriculum provides a pathway for teens, and anyone else, to do that. Past CO letters writers recognized the influence this had on their commitment to peace and non-violence.

When: Anytime. For further information on this curriculum or conducting workshops, contact Quaker House Executive Director Wayne Finegar at executivedirector@quakerhouse.org

Where: Wherever you want, at your community or your region; in-person, zoom, or hybrid.

How: Use the PowerPoint presentation or any of the materials in stand-alone sessions.

Table of Contents

Introduction and Basic Materials: *Agenda, Workshop Journal, and PowerPoint Presentation*

Handouts

- #1: Life-Long Benefits of Writing CO Letters
- #2: Selective Service
- #3: Conscientious Objection
- #4: Abrahamic Scripture vs. Military Enlistment Document
- #5: Excerpts from the Military Enlistment/Re-enlistment Document
- #6: COs, Selective Service, and the Draft in America, 1656 to Present
- #7: U.S. Constitution, Congressional Law, and Supreme Court Rulings
- #8: The Noncombatant Medic
- #9: Worksheet Form 22 Tips
- #10: Ways to Document a CO Claim, Including “Tri-folding”
- #11: Sample Selective Service System Registration Form
- #12: Change of Information Form and Reply
- #13: Reply from Selective Service on Attempt to Claim CO Re-Classification
- #14: Sending Documentation to Independent Agencies
- #15: Template for a CO Letter
- #16: Two Sample CO Letters⁴⁰
- #17: Letters of Support
- #18: Faith or Support Community Suggestions
- #19: Ways to Demonstrate Sincerity
- #20: The Draft and Draft Boards
- #21: Women, the Draft, and Conscientious Objection
- #22: Alternative Service
- #23: Interview Listening Skills
- #24: Asserting Rights Without Offending Others
- #25: Assertive Techniques
- #26: Suggestions for Handling the Four Categories of Questions
- #27: Interview Checklist

Activities

- #1: Could You Chant This at Boot Camp?
- #2: Jody Calls or Military Cadences
- #3: Violence vs. Nonviolence Brainstorming
- #4: Meaningful and Inspiring Quotes
- #5: War, Peace, Violence, Nonviolence, Conscientious Objection Quotes
- #6: Patriotism, Nationalism, and Christian Nationalism
- #7: Could You—Would You? Some Real-Life Military Decisions (*Optional*)
- #8: Before You Enlist, Consider This! Words from the Homefront
- #9: Worksheet Form 22: Claim for Conscientious Objector (*Optional, it's in the Journal*)
- #10: Draft Board Simulation
- #11: Observer Feedback
- #12: Twelve Questions
- #13: Induction Notice

PowerPoint Notes Pages (*Annotations and instructions for facilitators*)

Appendix: Glossary of Quaker and Selective Service Terms; Facilitator’s Checklist; 44 Past CO Letters from teens; *I Must Resist*; Bayard Rustin’s CO Letter; Variations on and Sample Responses to the Twelve Questions; Abrahamic Scripture on Peace, God’s Law, and Personal Conviction; Contacts and Resources; Selected Bibliography on War and Peace, Conscientious Objection, and Peace Building; Acknowledgements to First Edition; Acknowledgements to Second Edition

