“Ronald Reagan and the Ending of the Cold War” Lesson Plan
Grade 8 and above
Barbara Fowler, McLaughlin Middle School, Lake Wales, Florida

I. Lesson Plan Summary
A. Using the Cold War overview, discuss and review the events leading up to Ronald Reagan’s presidency from the text used, Call to Freedom. The lesson plan is designed to be used with the DBQ of the same title.

B. Objectives: Explain why the Cold War had continued for so long up to the Reagan administration.
   Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks: SS.A.1.3.3; SS. B.2.3.2; and LA.B.2.3.1.

C. U.S. History event/time period: The Cold War and the Reagan Administration

D. 8th grade and above

E. Materials needed
   1. Call to Freedom, Chapter 31, p.931.
   2. Large manila drawing paper
   3. Markers

II. Lesson Procedures and Activities:
   First Day:
   A. The Hook: Review with the students about the overview leading to the end of the Cold War. Make a timeline using the review facts from the overview as well as using the textbook showing the conflicts in the Cold War.
   B. Review what has been discussed from the textbook.
   C. Give paper and markers to make the timeline of the Cold War as a mapping.
   D. In groups of 4 working on 1 large sheet of paper, have the students each take a corner of the sheet and decide on the mapping of the review, putting all ideas and events together through words and/or drawings. Use the markers to make colorful and readable. (CRISS strategy)
   E. Students will share their mappings.
   F. Group students in pairs and give each a copy of the Document Based Question packet.
   G. Have each pair answer the scaffolding questions for each document in the DBQ.
   H. Discuss the documents with the students and review the ideas presented in the mapping activity.

III. Assessment
   Students will go on to Part 2 of the “Reagan and the Cold War” Document Based Question and will write their DBQ essay individually as the final assessment.

IV. Resources
   A. Holt’s A Call to Freedom textbook, page 928-931, and p. 933 in student and also the TM.
   B. Holt’s CD listing websites for research for the handout.
   D. Documents included in the DBQ activity.
   E. Additional resources may be added to enhance the assignment by individual teachers.