



The House Un-American Activities Committee

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: HUAC vs. Hollywood

Directions (Group #5): Your group has been assigned to play the part of Ayn Rand, one of the individuals involved in the 1947 HUAC investigation of the motion picture industry. Read the following document, and then prepare a 3-5 minute presentation in which you identify who you are and explain your views on the HUAC and communism in the entertainment industry. Choose one member of your group to make this presentation to the class. Be prepared to discuss, after all the presentations have been made, your opinion on whether or not HUAC was right to investigate subversive influences in the entertainment industry.

Ayn Rand

"The World Was at Stake": Three "Friendly" HUAC Hollywood Witnesses Assess Pro-Soviet Wartime Films: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6442> (scroll to just over halfway down the page)

Born Alyssia Rosenbaum, the author later known as Ayn Rand (1905-1982) witnessed as a girl the Russian Revolution and the birth of the Soviet Union, and developed a passionate hatred for communism. In 1925, she came to the United States, and soon settled in Hollywood, where she hoped to become a screenwriter. Rand wrote several moderately successful scripts and novels in the 1930s, but her big break came in 1943 with the publication of *The Fountainhead*. Like most of her works, *The Fountainhead* focused on the struggles of a heroic individual at odds with the pressures of society. An outspoken defender of individualism and capitalism, Rand jumped at the opportunity to testify before HUAC against what she believed were communist influences in the motion picture industry.