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| 1. Annotate the articles with at least five notes that show evidence of understanding and thinking. |

**GOP governors threaten to halt Syrian refugee resettlement in their states**

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff (excerpts), November 23, 2015

Defiant Republican governors had a message for President Barack Obama on Wednesday. They demanded he suspend plans to resettle thousands of Syrian refugees in their states. The governors claimed it would be all but impossible to identify terrorists hidden among the refugees. Furthermore, they said, it would be particularly risky to admit the refugees so soon after the recent deadly attacks in Paris. The attacks in Paris were carried out by the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS. It left 129 people dead and hundreds wounded.

None of the suspects in the Paris attacks has been identified as a Syrian refugee. Nonetheless, the attacks have hardened opposition to accepting Syrian refugees. Millions have fled Syria since a violent civil war broke out in 2011. Hundreds of thousands have not yet found a permanent place in which to resettle. Over the past four years, 2,200 Syrian refugees have been allowed into the United States. The U.S. has pledged to take in at least 10,000 more over the next year.

**U.S., France Join Forces In Bombing Syria**

Both the United States and France are involved in Syria's civil war. The two countries are supporting rebels seeking to topple Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The Islamic State group is involved in the fighting in Syria as well and has taken control of parts of the country. It is trying to establish a country in Syria and Iraq under Islamic law. That group has claimed that the attacks in Paris were meant to punish France for its involvement in the Syrian bombing campaign.

Some fear that the Islamic State group or other extremist groups might be planning to strike the United States next. They worry that extremist fighters could slip in with the Syrian refugees. State leaders from New Mexico to Michigan pleaded with the president to suspend the refugee program — at least for the moment.

**New Screening Layers At Heart Of Debate**

Refugees currently go through a thorough screening process that can take as long as three years. Proposed legislation just passed by the House of Representatives would add a new rule that would require every refugee to be officially declared safe by three high-level government officials: the Homeland Security secretary, the head of the FBI and the director of National Intelligence.

The change would not make Americans any safer, the White House said. Instead, it would only create "significant delays and obstacles" for the thousands of refugees much in need of a new place to call home.

It is unclear whether the bill would be enough to satisfy Republican governors even if it becomes law. "If you really care about those people in Syria, why not take and put the resources in Syria instead of bringing hundreds of thousands of Syrians here?" South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley asked.

**Governor Asks Party To Be More Open-minded**

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder encouraged other Republican governors to maintain a welcoming tone in the refugee debate. Some Republicans fear that their party's opposition to the president's plan could be seen as being anti-Islamic. Snyder, for example, condemned Republicans who suggested that only Christian Syrians be allowed into the United States. "I don't think that line's ever been drawn in our country's history. And I don't think that would be an appropriate line to draw," he said.

However, Snyder has joined other Republican governors in urging the president to "pause" the resettlement program until safety concerns are addressed. "I don't want to assume that there's a problem at this point. I just want to make sure we're doing the appropriate reviews," Snyder said. "It shouldn't be a real long pause."

**U.S. resistance to Syrian refugees sparks comparisons to WWII Jews’ plight**

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff (excerpts), November 24, 2015

Sol Messinger was just 7 when he stood with his father at the railing of the ship *St. Louis*. In 1939, Messinger's family and the other refugees boarded the St. Louis in hopes of fleeing Germany. But Cuba and the United States did not let the ship land, forcing it to sail back to Europe. Although Messinger's family was eventually able to enter the U.S., more than a quarter of the Jews on the *St. Louis* died during the Holocaust, the mass killing of Jews by German Nazis during World War II. Now 83, Messinger is a doctor in New York. "The Jews did not pose any threat to the U.S. ... It's really unforgivable," he said.

**Spotlight On An Ugly Time In History**

Today, there is once again anxiety about whether to admit refugees to the U.S. or turn them away. The question has returned the spotlight to the decision -- and other decisions that U.S. officials regret -- about the *St. Louis*.

On Nov. 13, the Islamic State group killed 130 people in Paris, France. Also known as ISIS, the extremist group wants to start its own country under its version of Islamic law. Its fighters have taken over parts of Syria and Iraq. Millions of people have fled, causing a massive refugee crisis. President Barack Obama has announced a plan to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees over the next year. Most of them are Muslim.

There are differences between what Jews faced during the Holocaust and what Muslims face now. But there are also disturbing similarities, scholars say.

**Arguments For Barring Refugees Have Resurfaced**

During World War II, the U.S. put strict limits on the numbers of refugees who could come to the United States. Some in the government did not like Jews and so they did not want to let them into the country. They were also worried that the Nazis would put spies among the Jewish refugees, Lichtman said. "Those arguments are chillingly similar to the arguments being made against the admission of the Syrian refugees," he said.

Lichtman isn't alone in making the comparison. On Monday, Peter Shulman of Case Western Reserve University in Ohio posted results from a 1938 public opinion poll on Twitter. It showed that Americans overwhelmingly rejected admission of German Jews in the years leading up to World War II. In 1938, 67 percent of Americans said the U.S. should try to keep German and Austrian refugees out of the country. Also, 61 percent did not want to allow 10,000 German Jewish children to enter.

**Only 3 Out Of 784,000**

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, the U.S. has taken in 784,000 refugees. Of them, just three have been arrested on charges of planning terrorist activities, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a group that tracks the movement of people around the world.

Messinger sees some similarities between his experience and the people fleeing Syria. But it's not exactly the same, he says. Jews escaped from Europe because of discrimination and mistreatment based on their religion, he said. But the Syrians are leaving because they live in a war zone, not because they are being treated unfairly because they are Muslim, he said.

**We Can, Should Stop Suffering, Documentarian Says**

Robert Krakow's *SS St. Louis* Legacy Project has researched the history of the voyage. That project won an apology from the U.S. government for turning the ship away. He sees more similarities than differences between the Jewish and Muslim refugees. "Ultimately, it's all grounded in the human condition. It's grounded in human need and suffering, and here's a case where we can do something," he said.

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| 2. Do you think the United States should accept relocated Syrian refugees?  Yes Yes, but… No No, but…  3. My main claim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  4. Why?  Reason #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Reason #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  5. Find 3 specific quotes from the articles to use as evidence to support your claim  a) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  b) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  c) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |