

good night, and good luck.



National Archives

Links for related information:

The following includes a range of websites that deal with Edward R. Murrow, the McCarthy Era and the movie "Good Night, and Good Luck." Some have links of their own, and this is by no means a complete list of the possibilities, but it is a start. Some are appropriate for reading before seeing the movie. Others contain specific topics useful for activities after viewing.

Murrow, the man and his programs:

- Edward R. Murrow, U.S. broadcast journalist, from the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC), the site has background of Murrow on radio and after the

McCarthy coverage.

<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/M/htmlM/murrowedwar/murrowedwar.htm>

- A biography of Murrow on the State Library of North Carolina website includes the excerpt from his response to McCarthy taken from Julius Caesar, "The fault, dear Brutus, ... is in ourselves."
<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/bio/literary/murrow.htm>
- A very personal view of Murrow comes from Joe Wershba, who worked with him on "See It Now" and

This instrument can teach, it can illuminate; yes, and it can...

other projects. He tells a variety of anecdotes in "Edward R. Murrow and the Time of His Time." (NOTE: *Wershba and his wife, Shirley, are listed in the movie credits as consultants, and Wershba later became the producer of "60 Minutes," a news format reminiscent of "See It Now."*)

<http://www.evesmag.com/murrow.htm>

- The PBS series "American Masters" also covers information about Murrow.
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/murrow_e.html
- The Edward R. Murrow Center for Public Diplomacy at Tufts University houses much information about the man, including a biography on its website.
<http://fletcher.tufts.edu/murrow/murrow/biography.html>
- In addition, the Center has archives of Murrow's papers from 1927 - 1965.
http://dl.tufts.edu/view_text.jsp?urn=tufts:central:dca:UA069:UA069.001.DO.MS025&chapter=*MAIN-SCOPECONTENT*
- The site contains historical information about "See it Now" from the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC), as well as "Hear it Now," Murrow's previous radio show with Fred Friendly. It explores his attitude towards early television and his opening line of the TV program when it began: "This is an old team trying to learn a new trade."
<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/S/htmlS/seeitnow/seeitnow.htm>
- This is a similar site, covering "Person to Person" and the early talk show format from the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC).
<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/P/htmlP/persontoper/persontoper.htm>
- Edward R. Murrow's speech to the RTNDA convention in Chicago, Oct. 15, 1958 begins and ends the movie. Read the entire speech at
<http://www.rtna.org/resources/speeches/murrow.shtml>
- Reading of the full script of the March 9, 1954 "See It Now" shows that many others were critical of Senator McCarthy's tactics. The full script is available at

<http://www.honors.umd.edu/HONR269J/archive/Murrow540309.html>

- Some of the quotes from Murrow in the movie plus others attributed to him with links to their background are posted on "The Quotations Page."
http://www.quotationspage.com/quotes/Edward_R._Murrow/
- Additional quotes said to come from Murrow are on the "Brainy Quote" website.
http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/e/edward_r_murrow.html

Joseph McCarthy and related Senate hearings:

- The Army-McCarthy Hearings are available from the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC).
<http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/A/htmlA/army-mccarthy/army-mccarthy.htm>
- The PBS series "American Masters" includes information about Sen. Joseph McCarthy.
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/mccarthyism.html>
- Complete transcripts of the McCarthy hearings are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office (downloadable pdfs near the bottom of the page).
<http://www.gpo.gov/congress/senate/senate12cp107.html>
- The biographical directory of the United States Congress gives the facts about McCarthy.
<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=M000315>
- Another governmental site with information is that of the United States Senate. It includes links to the Army-McCarthy hearings and the eventual censure of McCarthy—one of only eight senators to ever be censured.
http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/Featured_Bio_McCarthy.htm
- To hear Murrow's program about McCarthy, the Old Time Radio site has an audio file. (Real Player required.)
http://www.otr.com/murrow_mccarthy.shtml

- The Discovery Channel site (discoveryschool.com) includes video clips of the era. These give some background on what the U.S. was like then. "Eisenhower: The Cold War" <http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/eisenhower-coldwar/q.html>

"Eisenhower: The Contentious 1950s" <http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/contentiousyears/q.html>
 - History Matters is an interesting site, and it has a set of links to McCarthy and the era. Start here and try them all. <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6444>
 - The National Archives has a site that includes lessons on using documents. One uses a telegram and response between President Harry Truman and Sen. Joseph McCarthy and also tells readers how someone like this might rise to such power. <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/mccarthy-telegram/>
- Broadcast history and some of those involved:**
- Columbia Broadcasting System history is explored on the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC). This includes background on CBS founder William Paley, the challenge he had balancing news and entertainment and a hint of Fred Friendly's stand on that issue. <http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/C/htmlC/columbiabroa/columbiabroa.htm>
 - The Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC) also has background on Fred Friendly including his reason for resigning from CBS. <http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/F/htmlF/friendlyfre/friendlyfre.htm>
 - William S. Paley and his connection with CBS and with Murrow is another page from the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC). <http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/P/htmlP/paleywillia/paleywillia.htm>
 - Reporter Julie Morris wrote about Milo Radulovich in The Detroit News, "The man who fought McCarthy's red smear." She tells how the original Detroit News article that Murrow saw led him to the "little story" he wanted, one that would explain the impact of McCarthy's "red scare." <http://info.detnews.com/history/story/index.cfm?id-221&category=people>
 - The Lincoln Star, Lincoln, Neb., Wednesday, June 23, 1954: News Commentator Hollenbeck Ends Life (AP). <http://members.aol.com/rdkfour/DonHollenbeck.html>
 - Deaths. "O'BRIAN, JACK" Published: Nov. 7, 2000. A long-time newspaper columnist, and radio talk show host in New York, died Nov. 5, 2000 in Manhattan. (The New York Times obituary). <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F0DE4DB1039F934A35752C1A9669C8B63>
 - A slightly different version of O'Brian's obituary comes from Radio Ink, "Radio's Premier Management & Marketing Magazine: "Legendary Broadcaster and Columnist Jack O'Brian dies (Nov. 6, 2000) <http://www.radioink.com/HeadlineEntry.asp?hid=28562&pt=archive>
 - An interesting collection of historical images belongs to Tom Genova, a retired Ford Motor Company senior engineer. He has photos of many old television sets and equipment, plus scans of ads for them. Another interesting plus: For each year, he includes a "What Things Cost" listing. (i.e. 1952: Car 41,850, gasoline 27 cents/gallon, minimum wage 75 cents per hour, etc.) <http://www.tvhistory.tv/>
 - The Early Television Foundation and Museum in Hilliard, Ohio, has a website that includes photos of early television ads and sets as well as television network maps from 1950 and 1957. Who would have been able to watch "See It Now"? <http://www.earlytelevision.org/>
 - The website for the textbooks "Standard Handbook of Video and Television Engineering" and "Standard Handbook of Audio and Radio Engineering," by McGraw Hill, has a lengthy Broadcast History Timeline, covering both technology and business changes. http://www.tvhandbook.com/History/History_timeline.htm
 - The group Murrow addresses in the opening and closing scenes is the Radio and Television News Directors Association and Foundation. Background about the group as it is today is on the website. <http://www.rtnda.org>

More about the movie itself and journalism:

- The Internet Movie Database website lists movies and links to even more background for, as its “about us” section says, “a HUGE collection of movie information.” The main site for “Good Night, and Good Luck.” is http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0433383/?fr=c2i0ZT1kZnx0dD0xfGZiPXV8cG49MHxrdz0xfHE9R29vZCBOaWdodCwgYW5kiEdvb2QgTHVjay58ZnQ9MXxteD0yMHxsbT01MDB8Y289MXxodG1sPTF8bm09MQ__;fc=1;ft=21
- Harlan Jacobson's interview with the movie's screenwriter Grant Heslov sheds light on his ideas and those of producer Clooney, although some names are misspelled in this article. <http://www.clooneystudio.com/grantheslovinterview.html>
- Although movie reviews are easy to find online—and thus have not been included here—“Good Night, and Good Luck. George Clooney Takes on History” by Allen Barra on the American Heritage.com site is one exception. He explains why he thinks this movie is an important one for teenagers to see. <http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/web/20051007-george-clooney-david-stratham-edward-murrow-joseph-mccarthy-mccarthyism-jeff-daniels-patricia-clark-movie.shtml>
- From Accuracy in Media, a media criticism organization with another political point of view, comes, “AIM Report: Looney Clooney Smears Senator McCarthy” by Wes Vernon, Jan. 13, 2006. http://www.aim.org/aim_report/4297_0_4_0_C/
- The R&B and jazz singer whose interludes frame the movie is Dianne Reeves. Of special note is the section with information about the part her songs play. <http://www.diannereeves.com>
- For more background on Blues, check the PBS multimedia presentation, <http://www.pbs.org/theblues>
- Salon.com interview with George Clooney by Kerry Laureraman, Sept. 16, 2005, including his reason for telling the story and his concern for getting things right. http://dir.salon.com/story/ent/feature/2005/09/16/george_clooney/index1.html?pn=1
- A challenge for today's journalists, whether student, newspaper or, in this case, even a movie writer: Narrative writing—telling a story—is compelling and enjoyable for readers and viewers. But ethics tells us these stories should not be fiction. So how can writers be sure they are sticking to the facts? Chip Scanlon, senior faculty at The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, offers good background and examples in “The First Peril: Fabrication,” posted Aug. 23, 2002, and adapted from “Reporting and Writing: Basics for the 21st Century,” Oxford University Press, 2000. http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=9506
- Finally, for more background in news credibility, read “A Statement of Shared Purpose” on the Journalism.org website, a Project for Excellence in Journalism resource. <http://www.journalism.org/resources/guidelines/principles/default.asp>