

# “Tulsa: A Warning” - Tulsa Race Massacre from *The Monitor*

## Historical Contextualization and Author’s Point of View with your Gale In Context Resources

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Subject/Content:** U.S. History

**Summary of Lesson:** Students will use *Gale In Context: U.S. History* to read a primary source and then place that source within the proper **Historical Context** and with a **Perspective** and **Point of View**.

**Focus Questions:** What was the Tulsa Race Massacre? What was the historical context behind the editorial? What was the overall perspective of the piece?

**Resource:** *Gale In Context: U.S. History*

**Time Frame:** 30-45 minutes

**Learning Expectations:** Students will use their close reading skills to analyze a primary source. Students will provide proper historical context and perspective on their primary source using research skills and appropriate sources.

### Assessment Types:

**Informal Assessments:** Students will be assessed informally through the introduction discussion and through the debrief discussion through informal questioning,

**Formal Assessment:** Students will be assessed formally through the questions as they read the primary source and research the Tulsa Race Massacre.

---

### Procedures:

#### Steps/Activities by the Teacher:

- Introduce the idea of Historical Context and Point of View with your students.
- Ask students why understanding Historical Context and Point of View is important to understand historical events or primary sources.
- Facilitate a class discussion on how misunderstanding of historical context and Point of View can lead to misrepresentation and misunderstanding of Primary Sources.
- Pass out or digitally distribute copies of the attached worksheet, Historical Context and Point of View with “Tulsa: A Warning”.
- (Optional) Send direct links out to the students for the Primary Source and supplemental resources using the **Get Link** tool.
- Allow time for students to read the primary source and research the Tulsa Race Massacre.
- Debrief after the assignment to clear up any lasting questions over the document, the historical context of the Tulsa Race Riot, or the assignment. Revisit the focus questions and learning expectations of the lesson.

**Sources:**

"Tulsa Race Massacre Editorial from *The Monitor*: 'Tulsa: A Warning,' June 16, 1921." *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*, Gale, 2022. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/FXKKZB339704441/UHIC?u=\[LOCATION\\_ID\]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=1b5ec88e](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FXKKZB339704441/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=1b5ec88e). Accessed 28 Sept. 2022.

"Tulsa Race Massacre, May 31-June 1, 1921." *Historic U.S. Events*, Gale, 2020. *Gale In Context: U.S. History*, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/IVRZUC505729972/UHIC?u=\[LOCATION\\_ID\]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=b9a6923a](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/IVRZUC505729972/UHIC?u=[LOCATION_ID]&sid=bookmark-UHIC&xid=b9a6923a). Accessed 28 Sept. 2022.

# “Tulsa: A Warning”- Tulsa Race Massacre from *The Monitor*

## Historical Contextualization and Author’s Point of View with your Gale In Context Resources

**Directions:** Today’s activity focuses on the Tulsa Race Massacre and the reaction published in *The Monitor* shortly thereafter. For the first part of the activity, using *Gale in Context: U.S. History*, search for the primary source document of “Tulsa: A Warning” using the search below. Once you have found the document, read the Historical Context part of the article and the sourcing information, and answer the questions below before continuing.



Ruins of burned buildings along the east corner of Greenwood Avenue and East Archer Street, where a mob of white rioters attacked Black residents and set fire to buildings in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma, in June of 1921.  
*Bettmann/Getty Images*



**Basic Search:** Tulsa a Warning and open the Primary Source “Tulsa Race Massacre Editorial from *The Monitor*: “*Tulsa A Warning*”, June 16, 1921

**Advanced Search:** Gale Document Number:  
FXKKZB339704441

1. When was this published?
2. In what city was this published?

**Historical Context:** Before diving further in the writing, let us dive into the details of what happened in the Tulsa Massacre. Using *Gale In Context: U.S. History* use the search below to find an article over the Tulsa Race Massacre to read more about the historical situation. Answer the following questions.



**Basic Search:** Tulsa Race Massacre and open the Reference from Historic U.S. Events

**Search:** Gale Document Number: IVRZUC505729972

3. The Massacre started based on an incident between Dick Rowland and Sarah Page. What happened to the case against Rowland in the court system?
4. What was the role of the Tulsa Tribune in the Massacre?
5. Who came to meet the mob to protect Rowland?
6. What kind of destruction took place during the Massacre?

7. What was the reaction of the local police?
8. What is the estimated death toll of the Massacre?
9. What has happened recently in regard to the history of the Massacre?

**Point of View:** Using what you have now read about the historical context of the United States during the timeframe, do an in-depth reading of the original document, reusing the search below. During this reading, use the author's point of view, or perspective, to find a deeper meaning for the view he was taking.



**Basic Search:** Tulsa a Warning and open the Primary Source “Tulsa Race Massacre Editorial from *The Monitor*: “Tulsa A Warning”, June 16, 1921

**Advanced Search:** Gale Document Number: FXKKZB339704441

10. What systems, outside of individual responsibility, are referenced regarding preventing or de-escalating future events like the Tulsa Race Massacre? Which argument from the writer of this piece most appeals to you?
11. How does the writer's appeal for black Americans, to remain “law-abiding and self-respecting, never become the aggressor”, come across to you?
12. How might this message be different, if at all, in the twenty-first century? If different, how might the editorial perspective be framed today?

**Extension:** The editorial also mentions other cities that have similar issues and other contributing factors such as segregation and Jim Crow laws. To extend your knowledge, further research these claims and issues.

## Answer Key:

1. June 16, 1921
2. Omaha, Nebraska
3. It was dismissed.
4. They published an article that described an attempted rape that inflamed the massacre.
5. Armed black men, many of whom were WWI veterans.
6. According to the reference, "looting and destroying personal property and burning down the neighborhood. They set fire to a hospital, libraries, schools, churches, movie theaters, and homes, leveling more than 35 blocks. Thousands of people were left homeless, and hundreds were injured".
7. The police did not try to stop the violence and even deputized some of the white mob members who were participating in the destruction. None of the white mob was prosecuted.
8. Estimates are around 300.
9. The Race Riot Commission was established and published a report, there were attempts to get reparations for the survivors, although it failed, there was a found manuscript of that included personal accounts and attempts to find mass graves from the Massacre.
10. Answers will vary.
11. Answers will vary.
12. Answers will vary.