U.S. History <u>The Tuskegee Airmen</u>

While answering the following questions, include <u>specific</u> examples from the film.

1. In a 1942 survey, 20 percent of African Americans said that life under Hitler would be no worse than the racist conditions they experienced in the U.S. Despite these feelings, why did so many African Americans decide to pursue positions in the Armed Forces?

2. What were some of the ways the African Americans who trained at Tuskegee supported one another in order to achieve success? Why do you think they become such great pilots?

3. How were the black recruits treated in Tuskegee, Alabama during their pilot training? How did they respond to this treatment?

4. How were the Tuskegee Airmen treated by their commanding officers in North Africa?

5. In 1943, then-Colonel Benjamin Davis, Jr. addressed the War Department over claims that the Tuskegee Airmen were not up to par. Why do you think these pilots were under scrutiny? What was revealed about their actual performance?

6. In a series of protests known as the Freeman Field Mutiny, the Tuskegee bomber crew members took a stand against the segregation of officers' clubs, and demanded that they be allowed equal access to these clubs. What risk did they take by challenging this system of segregation? What was the outcome?

After the film: How might the discriminatory practices of the U.S. military and the country in general made winning World War II riskier than it needed to be? How do you think the Tuskegee Airmen helped inspire the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s? Explain fully using examples from the film.