

Unit 6 Civil War Research Project Overview – Group

Overview

Not very many years ago there were southern high school American history teachers who refused to teach the American Civil War because it was such a horrific time in our history. But the only way to learn from our mistakes is to know about them.

In this unit, you will be completing a group research project designed to give you an opportunity to practice your research skills, writing skills, historical thinking skills, and creativity. In this project, you will choose a person or event of the Civil War and study it in more detail. Then, you will create a slide show presentation of your group's findings.

Your group should work on this project in every lesson in the latter half of this unit. However, these are not the only assignments in the rest of Unit 6.

There is also an individual option for completing this research project. You will see directions for groups, as well as instructions for individual participants, on the Task pages. You should follow the group instructions if your teacher has assigned groupwork.

Group Formation

Your teacher will assign you a group. Most likely groups will consist of three students, but your teacher will determine this based on class size.

Group Work Discussion Board

In lessons throughout the latter half of this unit, your group should communicate with one another on the **Unit 6 Group Work Discussion** board. You should use that space to share ideas, content, feedback, and completed work. In each remaining lesson and project step, you will be given specific instructions for how to use this forum to continue working on this project.

Your group work posts on this discussion are **ungraded**. You should complete the group work there and then submit your completed assignments separately as directed. While you and your group members will not receive grades for specific interactions on the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion, your teacher will be monitoring your comments, and part of your final project grade will reflect the teamwork you showed while using the forum.

Research Topics

Your group may select one of the following topics for this project. Note: If you come across another event or topic that interests you and your group, feel free to ask your teacher about it. Also, be aware that your teacher may decide to assign you a topic.

- Abraham Lincoln
- Jefferson Davis
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Robert E. Lee
- Battle of Antietam
- Emancipation Proclamation
- Battle of Gettysburg
- Siege of Vicksburg
- Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell
- Clara Barton
- Dorothea Dix
- Battle of Mobile Bay

Project Steps and Assignments by Lesson

Detailed directions are provided within each lesson, but it is always a good idea to read through the steps before beginning a project! Read each step of the project below, including the graded and ungraded requirements and expectations along the way. **Note:** The following are not the only assignments in this unit.

Lesson 6.06

- Introduce yourself to the group, assign roles, and share project ideas in the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion (ungraded). You should discuss:
 - What team member will compile the presentation?
 - How will team members decide who is responsible for certain sub-topics related to the overall topic?
 - What team member will be responsible for editing the presentation for grammar, style, organization, MLA citations, etc.?
- If needed, reach out to your teacher for assistance.

Lesson 6.07

- You should have decided on a topic by this point.
- Each member of your group will research and find five sources to use in this project. You may discuss which sources (books, ebooks, articles, websites, etc.) each group member will select, how to evaluate the sources, and/or critique each other's work on the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion (ungraded).
- Each individual should submit his/her own source list to the **6.07 Topic Selection and Source List Dropbox** (graded).

Lesson 6.08

- With your group, you should draw up an outline for your group's presentation. Use the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion board to discuss the outline, including the organization, topic coverage, and who will be responsible for what parts of the outline. (ungraded)
- Your outline should include sub-topics such as:
 - Basic background information on your topic
 - Detailed information about specific sub-topics related to your main topic
 - Information on why this particular event is important to America's history and the way (if any) it impacted history
 - A list of sources your group is using, along with MLA citations for each one
- Your outline should include notes, rather than one-word topics and subtopics only.
- Each individual should submit the outline to the **6.08 Notes and Outline Dropbox** (graded).

Lesson 6.09

- Share the first draft of your portion of the group's presentation and provide feedback to your group members in the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion (ungraded). Make changes based on your feedback to each other before submitting it for peer review from all your classmates.
- Each individual should submit a rough draft of his/her part of the presentation to the **6.09 Peer Review Discussion** and provide feedback to other individuals (those not in your group). You will use the provided Peer Editing Checklist to guide your peer review (graded).

Lesson 6.10

- Revise your first draft based on peer review feedback.
- Your group should compile the final draft of your presentation using the Unit 6 Group Work Discussion (ungraded).
- Each group member should turn in the final draft presentation to the **6.10 Final Presentation Dropbox** individually (graded).