

# Unit 6 Civil War Research Project Overview – Individual

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## 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 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 findings.

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

## Research Topics

You may select one of the following topics for this project. Note: If you come across another event or topic that interests you, 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

- Brainstorm and think of project ideas. You don't have anything to turn in during this lesson. However, you should begin planning how you will complete your research project. (ungraded)
- Some questions to ask yourself:
  - How will I compile the presentation?
  - What topic and subtopics should my presentation include?
  - What's my planning for reviewing and editing the presentation for grammar, style, organization, MLA citations, etc.?
- Email your teacher if you need assistance.

## Lesson 6.07

- You should have decided on a topic by this point.
- Each individual will research and find five sources to use in this project. You should think about which sources (books, ebooks, articles, websites, etc.) to select and how you will evaluate the sources.
- Submit your source list to the **6.07 Topic Selection and Source List Dropbox** (graded).

## Lesson 6.08

- Draw up an outline for your presentation. Think about the organization, topic coverage, etc. of the outline. 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 you are using, along with MLA citations for each one
- Your outline should include notes, rather than one-word topics and subtopics only.
- Submit the outline to the **6.08 Notes and Outline Dropbox** (graded).

## Lesson 6.09

- Complete a first draft of your research project presentation.
- Submit a rough draft of the presentation to the **6.09 Peer Review Discussion** and provide feedback to other individuals in your class. 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.
- Compile the final draft of your presentation and submit it to the **6.10 Final Presentation Dropbox** (graded).