



ACADEMY OF AMERICAN STUDIES



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Civil War Summer Assignment Planner:

Introduction: We are the proud flagship school of the Gilder Lehrman Institute. The Institute has been leading the way in American History education since 1994. Our school enjoys rich U.S. History resources and funding for many programs through the Gilder Lehrman Institute.

As part of our 10th grade U.S. History curriculum you will write a Civil War Essay that may be entered into the Gilder Lehrman Civil War essay contest. All students must submit all essay assignments (including this one), classwork and a final Civil War essay by the beginning of December. You will write an essay regarding a specific topic of the Civil War period. These topics can span the Antebellum period, the Civil War and/or Reconstruction period in U.S. history.

Before you start viewing sources please read the instructions and rubric for the Gilder Lehrman U.S. Civil War Paper found here:

https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/2017-18_civil_war_essay_contest_packet.pdf

Task: Please view multiple sources about the U.S. Civil War and answer the questions below. Please submit this assignment during the first full week back to school in September, no later than Friday, September 14th to your 10th grade U.S. history teacher. View at least three sources:

Website sources:

Gilder Lehrman Website on the U.S. Civil War

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/civil-war-and-reconstruction-1861-1877/american-civil-war>

Civil War Trust:

<http://www.civilwar.org/>

Youtube videos:

John Green Crash Course U.S. Civil War

Part I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY9zHNOjGrS>

Part II: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzTrKccmj_I

Reconstruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=newsS7pMApI>

History Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23gE3q8TqFA>

History Channel, The Story of Us: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRyf2axy3C0>

Reconstruction Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOJch5C8aEg>

You are not limited to these videos or websites. Go to the library and find a book! The goal is to immerse yourself in the U.S. Civil War so you can generate a topic of interest for your paper.

Writing Assignment:

Answer each of the following questions/prompts in one paragraph each (5-7 complete sentences).

One event/idea that led to the Civil War

One important event/idea that happened during the Civil War

One event/idea that happened as a result of the Civil War

Describe one key idea or area of interest that you discovered from your sources and explain what spiked your interest? Be specific, "Reconstruction" is too broad.

Now that you've done some initial reading and research on the Civil War, identify 2-3 specific topics within the Civil War that could be the focus of your paper. Remember... your teacher has to approve your final topic when school resumes in September before you begin your research and draft writing of the paper.

1.

2.

3.

In the space below, write a very detailed paragraph **explaining and justifying** why you believe your first choice of a topic is a specific and strong research focus. Explain how you think you will be able to discuss this topic by supporting a well-developed thesis and providing evidence based claims within the paper.