

2017 CIVIL WAR RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATION

The U.S. Civil War is one of the three areas of focus and concentration for our IB History of the Americas course. It will be two of the six questions you will need to answer on your diploma exam at the end of your senior year.

For each critical area of the Civil War, each one of you will dissect the area of concentration and prepare the following:

- 1. Research paper- Outside of class; 1500-2000 words; approx. 10% of semester grade**
- 2. Presentation; 20-30 minutes; use of power point; approx. 7% of grade**

Your primary source for your investigation will be Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era by McPherson. I have other books available and as you decide and choose your topic, you will see if I reference those books, as well. Also, Professor Richard Jensen has compiled the most extensive Web sites on the Civil War. They include biographies, pictures, political documents and many other important media from the War. They will be essential to your research.

There are 17 different focus areas of research. I will give you guiding questions and statements on each area for your assistance in starting the projects.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION:

- 1. SOWING THE SEEDS OF CONFLICT IN A HOUSE DIVIDED**
 - a. Why was the sectional conflict over slavery the greatest danger to national survival?**
 - b. Discuss the impact of the Compromise of 1820.**
 - c. Why was the issue of slavery so volatile in the period 1840-1861?**
 - d. Discuss the impact of the Nullification Crisis**

- e. Why did westward expansion, the concept of “manifest destiny,” and the Mexican conflict force Congress to act in the slavery issue?
- f. Discuss the impact of the Wilmot Proviso with the Compromise of 1850.
- g. Discuss the Fugitive Slave Law and Northern reaction.
- h. How were the North and South similar and dissimilar?
 - i. Read the introduction and Ch. 1-3 in McPherson

2. THE DEMISE OF THE SECOND PARTY SYSTEM AND THE RISE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY:

- a. Explain the demise of the Whig party and the origins and growth of the Republican Party
- b. Describe how successful the Kansas-Nebraska Act was in pacifying the South’s demand for an extension of slavery into the territories
- c. Discuss the impact of the Dred Scott decision
- d. Compare and contrast Lincoln’s and Douglas’s perceptions toward the Dred Scott decision and slave issue.
 - i. Chapters 4-6 in McPherson

3. THE COUNTERREVOLUTION OF 1861 AND THE CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT:

- a. Explain how Lincoln’s election to the presidency threatened the South
- b. Discuss the arguments for Southern Succession
- c. What was the impact of John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry?
- d. Compare Lincoln’s and Davis’ view of Fort Sumpter in 1861
- e. Discuss why it was so important for Lincoln to keep the border states in the Union. How did he do it?
 - i. Chapters 7-9 in McPherson

- 4. THE WAR BEGINS:**
 - a. What was the North's strategy in the "Anaconda Plan?"**
 - b. Why was the Battle of First Manassas an important victory for the South?**
 - c. Why were the border states so crucial to the Union strategy?**
 - d. Detail how the armies were organized.**
 - i. Chapter 9, pp. 331-338; Ch. 11 in McPherson

- 5. THE WESTERN THEATER, 1861-1862: (2 people)**
 - a. Why did the Union change generals in the Fall of 1861?**
 - b. What was the difficulty the South faced in the West?**
 - c. What were the advantages and disadvantages to both the South and North in the West?**
 - d. How was the stage set for the Battle of Shiloh?**
 - e. Why was the first day of Shiloh the bloodiest of the War?**
 - f. Based on the Anaconda Plan, what was the Union's progress in the West up to 1862?**
 - i. Chapter 13 in McPherson

- 6. McCLELLAN AND THE WAR IN THE EAST, 1861-1862:**
 - a. What was McClellan's impact on the War in 1861-1862?**
 - b. How did the Battle of Ball's Bluff reflect the political nature of the War?**
 - c. What was the major threat that the Federals mounted in Virginia in April-May 1862? Explain.**
 - d. How did the South counter the North in April-May 1862?**
 - e. What was the significance of the result of the Seven Days' Battle?**
 - i. Chapters 13 and 15 in McPherson

- 7. THE KENTUCKY CAMPAIGN, THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM, AND THE WAR IN VIRGINIA AND THE WEST, 1862-1863;**
- a. **What was the strategic situation of the South in 1862?**
 - b. **Discuss and analyze the Kentucky Campaign of 1862.**
 - c. **What was the significance of the Battle of Antietam for both the North and South?**
 - d. **Discuss Lincoln's logic in issuing the Emancipation Proclamation.**
 - i. Chapters 16 and 17 in McPherson
 - e. **Describe the major battles and their outcomes in the Western theater in the winter of 1862-1863.**
 - f. **Describe the major battles and their outcomes in Virginia in the winter of 1862-1863.**
 - i. Chapters 19 and 21 in McPherson
- 8. CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS:**
- a. **Why did the South believe it had better generals than the North?**
 - b. **How did the soldiers reflect the society from which they came?**
 - c. **Analyze the factors that motivated the soldiers to enlist.**
 - d. **Describe the soldiers' experiences in battle and how they became hardened veterans.**
 - e. **What were the problems and issues with camp life?**
 - f. **What happened to deserters?**
 - i. Utilize Reid Mitchell's "Civil War Soldiers"
- 9. RECRUITING SOLDIERS AND FINANCING THE WAR:**
- a. **Compare the South's Conscription Act of 1862 with the North's draft of 1863.**
 - b. **How successful were the drafts in recruiting soldiers to fight?**
 - c. **How did the conscriptees keep from fighting in the War?**
 - d. **What were the reasons for the Northern draft riots and what were their results?**
 - e. **How did the two sides finance the War and which side was most successful and why?**
 - i. Chapters 14 and 20 in McPherson

- 10. VICKSBURG, GETTYSBURG AND CHATTANOOGA:**
- a. **Explain the significance of the Battle of Vicksburg, Port Hudson and Tullahoma based on the Anaconda Plan.**
 - b. **Why could the summer and fall of 1863 be described as a “Season of Uncertainty?”**
 - c. **Discuss the position of the North and the South leading up to the Battle. Who had the advantage and why?**
 - d. **Discuss the key military and civilian leaders of the Battle and their contributions.**
 - e. **Discuss the momentum of the Battle during the first two days.**
 - f. **Discuss the impact of Pickett’s Charge.**
 - g. **Discuss the end of the Battle and Lincoln’s frustration on the South’s retreat.**
 - h. **Discuss why or why not Gettysburg was the “turning point” of the War.**
 - i. **Discuss the importance of the Battle of Chattanooga.**
 - i. Chapters 21 and 22 in McPherson
- 11. THE IMPACT OF WAR ON SOCIETY:**
- a. **Discuss the changes in society in both the North and South that occurred during the War.**
 - b. **Analyze the relationship between Confederate ideology and how the South fought the War.**
 - c. **Discuss ideology of the South politically, socially, culturally and economically.**
 - i. Chapters 18, 23, and 26 in McPherson – discusses the home front
 - ii. Chapters 14 and 20 in McPherson
 - iii. The Confederate Nation by Thomas
- 12. IMPACT OF CIVIL WAR ON CANADA:**
- a. **How did the Civil War affect the politics of Canada?**
 - b. **How did the Civil War affect Canada’s relationship with both the U.S. and Great Britain?**
 - c. **What were the changes in Canada as a result of the Civil War?**

- i. The History of Canada by McNaught pp. 116-133
- ii. IB Course Companion Textbook

13. IMPACT OF CIVIL WAR ON LATIN AMERICA:

- a. **How did the Civil War impact the changes in slavery and freedom in Latin America?**
- b. **How did the Civil War affect the economics and politics in Latin America?**
- c. **Discuss changes as a result of the end of the Civil War.**
 - i. A History of Latin America by Keen and Haynes; Chapter 10
 - ii. IB Course Companion Textbook

14. DIPLOMACY AND WARTIME RECONSTRUCTION:

- a. **Discuss King Cotton and its impact on foreign intervention in the War.**
- b. **Discuss the importance of the Trent Affair of 1861.**
- c. **Why did the Battle of Antietam delay Europe's intervention into the War?**
- d. **What two factors kept Europe from recognizing the South? Why?**
- e. **Discuss Lincoln's 10% Plan for Reconstruction.**
- f. **Why did the Radical Republicans oppose Lincoln's plan? Include the Wade-Davis bill.**
 - i. Chapters 18,22, and 23 in McPherson

15. THE CIVIL WAR NAVY:

- a. **Discuss the growth of the Navy during the War.**
- b. **How did the North strategically utilize the Navy?**
- c. **How important was the blockade? Why?**
- d. **Discuss the importance of the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack and its effect on Europe.**
- e. **Discuss the impact of the Southern commerce raiders.**
 - i. Chapters 10, 12 and 13 in McPherson

- 16. RACE AND GENDER DURING THE WAR:**
- a. **Discuss the Union army's dealings with contrabands and its impact on emancipation.**
 - b. **Discuss the gains earned by African Americans in the North during the War.**
 - c. **How was slavery changed in the South?**
 - d. **Discuss the War's impact on women.**
 - e. **What were the various roles for women during the War?**
 - i. Chapters 23, 26 in McPherson
- 17. ATTRITION, APPOMATTOX, AND THE END OF THE WAR:**
- a. **Discuss the strategies of the North and South in the last year of the War (Spring 1864-1865)**
 - b. **Discuss the concept of "modern warfare" as it applies to Grant in Virginia and Sherman's March.**
 - c. **What was the political and military impact of the fall of Atlanta?**
 - d. **Compare Lincoln and Davis in wartime leadership.**
 - e. **Discuss the effect of the 1864 presidential election and the North's political attacks on Lincoln.**
 - f. **Discuss the dynamics of surrender on the South.**
 - g. **Why did the South lose the war?**
 - i. Chapters 24,25,27,28 in McPherson