



The Underdogs

By: Lamont Moore
Director of Testing, Accountability, Gifted Education, and Title III; Ed.D. in Educational Leadership,
Gardner-Webb University, NC

History
Grades 9-12



Introduction

The winning story of an underdog is very inspiring, but can be despised by some. In this writing prompt, students are reminded of how our country was considered the underdog in the War of 1812.

Learning Objectives

- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2](#)) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2.B](#)) Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

Materials Needed

- Access to technology (introduction video)
- Paper/electronic tablet/laptop (for composing a writing piece)

Procedure

1. Introduce this topic by talking about the term “underdog.” Have the students provide examples of people who have been considered an underdog. Discuss what it means to succeed when the odds are stacked against you. After discussing this with the class, show [this video](#).
2. After reviewing the video, challenge the students to reflect on a story of an underdog as they prepare to respond to the following writing prompt.

Writing Prompt: Write about a time when you felt that you were an underdog and won. If you cannot recall a moment when you were an underdog, think of a book character or another person who won as an underdog and write an essay that explains the event.

Evaluation

Use a rubric to evaluate this expository writing. The rubric should rate the organization, level of elaboration, and use of conventions. Here is a [link to a sample rubric](#).