



Revolutionary War Battles

By: Lori McDonald

Elementary school teacher; Ed.D. in School Leadership/Administration

History
Grades 6-8



Introduction

Begin a unit on the Revolutionary War with this writing prompt to assess what students already know. They can also look back at this writing assignment to see how much they have learned to add to their prior knowledge.

Learning Objectives

([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.8](#)) Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Materials Needed

- Internet access

Procedure

1. Watch this short introductory video about the [Revolutionary War by Kristina Edgar](#)
2. Put students into small groups. Prompt students to discuss what they already know about the Revolutionary War from previous years of study.
3. Provide the technology necessary for each child to conduct their own research on the following topic:
 - **Which battle of the Revolutionary War was the most important and why?**
 - Students should be given ample time to research this topic and write an informative essay about the battle they researched.

Evaluation

After completing their writing, students can either complete a self-evaluation or exchange papers for a peer-evaluation. Revisions should be made based on this evaluation and then submitted to the teacher for grading.

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Categories	4	3	2	1
Sentences	8 or more complete sentences included.	6 or 7 complete sentences included.	4 or 5 complete sentences included.	3 or less complete sentences included.
Evidence	4 or more specific examples found in research to support claim.	3 specific examples found in research to support claim.	2 specific examples found in research to support claim.	1 specific example found in research to support claim.
Punctuation	All sentences end with correct punctuation.	Most sentences end with correct punctuation.	Some sentences end with correct punctuation.	Little or no sentences end with correct punctuation.
Capitalization	All sentences begin with a capital letter.	Most sentences begin with a capital letter.	Some sentences begin with a capital letter.	Little or no sentences begin with a capital letter.
Neatness	All words are neat and clearly written.	Most words are clearly written.	Some words are clearly written.	Illegible
Topic	All sentences are on-topic.	Most sentences are on-topic.	Some sentences are on-topic.	Little or no sentences are on-topic.