

Lesson Title: Our Side of the Battle!

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### **Teaching Traditional American History Program**

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Mike Lair, Project Director

<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: Using primary and secondary sources the student will be able to compare the outcome of Civil War battles from the viewpoint of each side.

Essential Question(s): Did the side you were on influence your perspective on the battle?

Objectives: After completing this lesson the student will be able to:

MO Grade Level Expectations 9-12:

- GLE (2a, E5) Changing character of American society and culture
- GLE (7, B2) Selecting and analyzing primary/secondary sources

Assessment: At the end of the lesson the student will have compared the outcome of the battle from each side and created a newspaper article from each viewpoint.

Articles should include:

- Battle (each side has their own name)
- Leaders in the battles
- Location
- Numbers engaged for each side
- Losses (dead, wounded, missing)
- Outcome (winner is not always clear cut)

Materials: Internet access

Google: Particular battle

Class Time: Three class periods plus research and writing time.

1<sup>st</sup> Class period: instruction

2<sup>nd</sup> Class period: peer review

3<sup>rd</sup> Class period: presentation

Teacher Input: After ending the Civil War unit in class, this activity will allow the students to focus on a battle of their particular interest. Go over what the newspaper article should include for each side. Remind them that their articles should be ones that could have been in the Washington Post and the Richmond Hearld of that time period. They are comparing the different viewpoints on the same battle depending on which side they support in the war.

Activities:

- ✓ Students will research their battle.
- ✓ They will prepare a rough draft of each newspaper article for peer review (this will be done by a student who has chosen a different battle).
- ✓ They will prepare a final draft of their articles.

Questions for review:

1. Does it matter which side you support and your viewpoint on the outcome of the battle?
2. Is there always a clear cut winner?
3. Why are there different names for the same battles?
4. After writing your articles from each side, can you see “the other side”?

Closure: At this point, go over the causes of the war, the differences in what each side was fighting for and the results for each side.

References:

<http://www.archives.gov>

<http://www.historychannel.com>

<http://www.CivilWarAlbum.com>

<http://www.libraryofcongress.gov>

<http://www.civilwar.org>