**The Civil War**

**Creative Project**

* Choose one of the following formats.
* Choose one of the following topics.
* Do your best. Adhere to the requirements.
* You will be graded on content and creativity
* You are encouraged to work individually. You may work with one other person. You will earn an individual grade.
* You must show me you put effort and thought into your project.

**Formats**

Skit Radio Play Cartoon Diary

Children’s Story Short Story Newscast Speech(es)

Collection of Poems “Eyewitness Accounts” Biography “Photo” Essay

Newspaper Music Pamphlets Chautauqua

Letters Puppet Show Slide Show Your Choice\*

**Topics**

Any Battle in the Civil War Rise of “King Cotton”

Slavery: Lifestyle Southern Justification of Slavery

Missouri Compromise Compromise of 1850

*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* Kansas-Nebraska Act

“Bleeding Kansas” Charles Sumner

Dred Scott John Brown/Harper’s Ferry

Nat Turner Lincoln-Douglass Debates

Election of 1860 Battle of Bull Run

Antietam Gettysburg

Pickett’s Charge Johnny Reb

African American soldiers Billy Yank

Emancipation Proclamation Prisoner of War Camps

Union Blockade Andersonville

U.S. Grant Life in the Army North/South

Robert E. Lee Abraham Lincoln

Northern/Southern Economics Appomattox

Jefferson Davis Underground Railroad

New York Draft Riots Sherman’s March to the Sea

William Tecumseh Sherman Jeb Stuart

Nathan Bedford Forest Phillip Sheridan

Mary Chesnut Fort Sumter

Stonewall Jackson Election of 1864

50th Reunion at Gettysburg Lincoln and his Generals

Thaddeus Stevens Ironclads

African-American soldiers Your Choice\*

**Requirements**

Goals—Regardless of the format you choose, you must accomplish the following:

1. CONTENT: You must teach the reader about your topic. This will require the use of at least one source other than your textbook/notes. Be thorough!
2. CREATIVITY: You must present the information in a way that is interesting and original. Use your imagination!
3. SPECIAL NOTE: Humor: You may be funny, but use humor to enhance and enlighten the topic and not detract from it. You CAN have a serious presentation of the subject matter and be funny in that same presentation!

**Formats**

1. Newspaper

Must include:

* Name of newspaper (with slogan: example-“All the news that’s fit to print”)
* Date
* “newspaper format” (modeled after a current newspaper)
* At least five stories (equivalent to ½ to 1 page written)
* one editorial
* three pictures interspersed among the page
* weather section
* “travel section”, etc.
* Suggestion: Choose a single theme/event to document: example: Battle of Gettysburg.

1. Photo Essay

Must include:

* At least 10 photographs
* You may use one photo per page or multiple photos on a page. The photos must be accompanied by text that analyzes your topic. The text does not necessarily have to directly explain what’s happening in the photograph.
* Colorful cover with original title.
* The photographs are a supplement, not a substitute, for your analysis/explanation of the topic.
* You may also consider: “introduction” by another author, quotes on the back cover, binding your work.

1. Dialogue

Must include:

* An introductory paragraph that explains the backgrounds of the two speakers preceding the dialogue itself.
* 3 pages of dialogue. Each speaker clearly identified.
* Information from an outside source.
* Colorful decorated cover with an original title.
* Typed, double-spaced dialogue.
* You may also consider: pictures of topics the speakers discuss.

1. Newscast

Must include:

* A written copy of the dialogue in the newscast.
* 6-10 minutes long
* Follow as closely as possible the format used by the network news. Includes an anchorperson and introduction of the main stories to be presented.
* A thorough discussion of your topic with information from at least one outside source.
* Equal participation among group members. One person cannot just be the camera operator.
* You may also include: music, live footage, interviews, and commercials (Civil War related).

1. Eyewitness Account

Must include:

* 3-5 pages of written work, typed, and double-spaced.
* A thorough discussion of the events you’re an eyewitness to.
* Use of information from at least one outside source.
* Clear identification of who the author is, the time and the setting
* Decorated/colorful title sheet with original title.
* May consider: including pictures

1. Collection of Poems

Must include

* At least 10 poems (approximately 5 pages of text)
* Choose a theme to unite the poems (example: life in the army, conditions of slavery)
* Typed
* Illustrated cover sheet with original title
* Paragraph introducing the author
* Suggestions: include pictures, illustrations along with the poems, use footnotes to further explain topics brought up in the poems
* Information from at least one outside source

1. Short Story

Must include:

* At least 3-5 pages of text, double-spaced
* Setting, plot, time period of story
* Typed/double-spaced
* Information from at least one outside source
* The reader should learn about a topic in the Civil War through your creative interpretation of that story.
* Colorful/decorated cover sheet with original title
* May also include: pictures, quotes from famous authors on back cover reviewing your story

1. Diary

Must include:

* 3-5 pages of text, double-spaced
* Dates of each entry
* Thorough examination of your topic
* Decorated/colorful cover sheet with original title
* Use of information from at least one outside source
* Introductory paragraph introducing the reader to the author, time, and setting
* Suggestions: Choose one episode and explore it in-depth through the eyes of the author

1. Children’s Story

Must include:

* 8-10 pages
* Each page will have an illustration or picture (colored if possible) with accompanying text.
* Use of information from at least one outside source
* Thorough investigation of your topic
* Simplified language that a 4th or 5th grade student would understand
* Decorated/colorful cover with original title
* May also include: rhymed text. Use of character(s) that see the event through his/her/its eyes

1. Pamphlets

Must include:

* 4 pamphlets
* Decorated/colorful, original titles
* Thorough investigation of your topics
* Use of information from at least one outside source
* Suggestion: Choose one or two themes and go into them in-depth

1. Slide Show

Must include:

* At least 10-15 slides
* Use each slide to illustrate and explain part of your topic.
* The slide show will explain in detail the topic you present.
* A typed, double-spaced summary identifying each slide and accompanying text with bibliography
* Use of information from at least one outside source
* Suggestions: Use music in your presentation, practice going through the slides beforehand.

1. Music

You must:

* Learn to play or sing three Civil War era songs
* Explain the history and the context of each song. For example, is it a Northern or Southern song, or both?
* Is there a known author for each song? If so, who is it? Give us just a little biographical information about the author(s).
* Type this information, double-spaced.

1. Skit

You must:

* Perform a skit, 6-10 minutes in length
* Teach the class about a specific Civil War event/person
* Use appropriate costumes and props
* Have your lines memorized

1. Radio Play

You must:

* Meet the same requirements as a skit except that instead of costumes, you will rely on sound effects and your voice.
* This will be presented to the class as an audio recording.

1. Cartoon

You must:

* 3 original images that clearly illustrate a Civil War topic
* Some dialogue, a caption, labels, or a catch phrase that demonstrates the significance of the political cartoon in relation to the Civil War.
* A one page written analysis of your political cartoon, including the reasons why your theme/topic was important during this era and the significance of the overall message/idea in relation to the Civil War

1. Biography

You must:

* Write an original 3-5-page biography of your Civil War figure.
* Type your biography and double-space.
* Provide a bibliography and use internal citation.
* Include pictures and graphics—the more of these you include the more pages it should be.

1. Speeches

You must:

* Present 1-2 speeches depending on length that were given during the Civil War era.
* Cite the source of your speech including who originally gave it and the context surrounding it.
* Do not simply read the speech. Practice delivering the speech with appropriate tone, gestures, etc.
* You might consider: If appropriate, use a visual aid.

1. Chautauqua

You must:

* Come to class as your character from the Civil War era.
* Come in appropriate costume and with appropriate accent and affectation.
* As your character, teach the class about an event or events from the Civil War.

**Your primary goal is to teach your audience about the Civil War!**