***The Civil War***

***Background:***

The Civil War consisted of four years of bloody conflict from 1861-65 and divided the nation in half, creating a rift that would take decades to repair and is still greatly impacts our nation’s cultural identity. The “War Between the States” was one of the first industrial wars ever fought and as a result more than 623,000 soldiers died in a conflict that included some of the deadliest battles in American history. Individuals in both the Union and Confederate forces would become American legends, often with duel legacies depending upon which side of the Mason-Dixon line the individual was from. The country experienced a lot of change in a short period of time and your job will be to research some of the people, events, and topics that caused the most change during the war.

**Task:**

You and a partner will select an aspect of the Civil War to research and then create an 8-10-minute documentary to elaborate about a topic of your choice to the class.

Your documentary must cover the following basic information:

A. *A journalistic approach to the topic itself:*

*- Answer the following probing questions-Who? What? When? Why? and How?*

*- Consider what type of topic you are covering:*

1. *People: What role did this individual have in the war? What was his or her legacy?*
2. *Events: What were the underlying and immediate causes of this event? What effect did this event have on the war? How is this event remembered in conjunction with the Civil War?*
3. *Topics or Ideas: What were the causes connected to this topic? What impact did this topic have on the war?*

B. *Make it clear how* *your topic was connected with the Civil War specifically. Be historically accurate.*

C*. Make it clear why your topic is important and include information on its unique impact on the era in which it was fought.*

This assignment will be scored using the following criteria

**Criteria:**

* You must use at least **7** different sources for your information

You must fill out a note sheet for each source that you use

* Works cited must be listed in alphabetical order and done in MLA format and turned in with you and your partner’s note sheets
* You may not use Wikipedia or similar/mirror sites (about.com, etc.).
* Documentaries can be structured as nightly news segments, real time interviews with important figures, re-enactments of important events, professional talking head style elaboration of content, or a mish mash of different types. Be Appropriate, Be Creative!!!
* Create a note sheet with questions or fill-in the blank sections to be filled out along with your documentary.

**Topics:** Mark which topic you and your partner will be researching

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| ***People/ Groups***  ***\_\_\_* Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman**  **\_\_\_ Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson**  **\_\_\_George B. McClellan and the Election of 1864**  **\_\_\_ Fredrick Douglas and the 54th Massachusetts Regiment**  **\_\_\_ Women’s involvement in the Civil War**  **\_\_\_ Jefferson Davis and the government of the Confederacy**  **\_\_\_ Abraham Lincoln, his presidency, and death**  **\_\_\_Thaddeus Stevens**  **\_\_\_US Grant as President** | ***Events***  **\_\_\_ The Wilmot Proviso**  **\_\_\_The Lincoln Douglas Debates**  **\_\_\_ John Brown’s**  **Raid**  **\_\_\_ Preston Brooks canes Charles Sumner**  **\_\_\_ First Battle of Bull Run**  **\_\_\_ Shiloh**  **\_\_\_ Antietam**  **\_\_\_ Vicksburg**  **\_\_\_ Gettysburg**  **\_\_\_\_Siege of Petersburg and Surrender of the Confederacy**  **\_\_\_ Passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments** | ***Topics/ Ideas***  **\_\_\_ Reconstruction 1865-1877**  **\_\_\_ The Freedman’s**  **Bureau**  **\_\_\_ Military Tactics (Plans and strategies of Both Sides)**    **\_\_\_ Advances in Military Technology**  **\_\_\_ Emancipation Proclamation**  **\_\_\_ Medical Technology**  **\_\_\_The Draft and the Draft Riots**  **\_\_\_ Use of Photography during the Civil War**  **\_\_\_ The creation and legacy of Arlington Cemetery**  **\_\_\_ Conflict at Sea**  **\_\_\_ Civil War Letters** |

Have a topic idea not on the list? Just Ask!!!

**Work Cited**

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