

AMERICAN HISTORY SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES

After reading one of the SUMMER READING TEXTS, complete the CORRESPONDING ACTIVITY or the BOOK REVIEW

CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER by James Watson

Write a letter of inquiry back in time to either John Wilkes Booth or Secretary Edwin Stanton. In the letter, introduce yourself and ask three critical questions pertaining to events within the text of *CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER*. Then write a return letter from Booth or Stanton. Use evidence from the book to answer the questions. Provide some in depth explanation using the voice of the historic figure. The narration of the history can also give you material for inferring how either of the figures felt about the assassination. Each letter should be at least a page long.

MR. LINCOLN'S HIGH TECH WAR by Thomas B. Allen & Roger MacBride Allen

Use material from *MR. LINCOLN'S HIGH TECH WAR* to create a six item *infograph*. An *infograph* uses visual graphs & diagrams to present designs, statistics, cause-effect patters, etc. Copy and paste 6 different visuals from technology found in the text into a Document. Then provide a developed paragraph that explains the importance of the visual. Examples you may present could include a graph that provides data on the growth of use of the Gatlin Gun, or a map of Union Rail Roads, or designs for the first “submarines.”

PHOTO BY BRADY: A PICTURE OF THE CIVIL WAR by Jennifer Armstrong

Stage and photograph a series of six photos that mimic photos selected from *PHOTO BY BRADY: A PICTURE OF THE CIVIL WAR*. After taking the photos of people, sites or events, research to find the actual photos on the internet. In a document, paste them side by side and write a short paragraph that compares main elements of what you were trying to replicate. Try to be as near to authentic as you can with your photos, and also explain what could not be matched.

BOOK REVIEW

Write a 3 page *BOOK REVIEW* of any of the three texts. A book review is not a simple summary. It must have the following elements: (Page 1)A brief summary of themes, events/plot, and main characters with a short writing sample using an excerpt from the narrative. (Page 2)A short biography of the author should be included. This biography should also include motivation for writing the book and angle or message of the author. (Page 3) Ultimately what do the critics say? This is not material from a blog, or book jacket, but from experts in history. These critics should be cited. Finish with your own specific thoughts on the book.