

## Letter #1: To Secede or Not to Secede? (1860)

Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarize Southern secession (who seceded, why, when and where) and explain the significance of secession <input type="checkbox"/> Highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the North and South
Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> State your position on secession- is it a good decision for the South to secede?? <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how this event impacts your life and those around you
Looking Ahead	<input type="checkbox"/> Predict who you believe will win the war (if it comes to that)
Bonus	<input type="checkbox"/> Research social customs of the North and South <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Research military tactics used in the Civil War (battalion formations, blockade, flanks, sieges, artillery assaults, selecting battle sites, etc) <b>OR</b> weapons of the war.
Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> 400-500 words (typed or hand-written)
Enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of your character

### Rubric

	<b>Ideas and Content</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Voice</b>	<b>Word Choice</b>	<b>Conventions</b>
4	Summarizes the 4 W's and includes ample details/facts explaining the cause and outcome. Interprets significance. Expertly communicates character's viewpoint/ position. Makes excellent use of available primary source documents.	Written in letter format. Makes excellent use of transitions. The writing includes sentences of varied length and structure.	Voice is engaging and appropriate for the time audience. The character's personality is clearly apparent.	Uses language effectively by exhibiting word choice that is engaging and appropriate for audience and historical setting.	The writing consistently follows the rules of standard English for usage, spelling of commonly used words, capitalization, and punctuation.
3	Mostly summarizes the 4 W's and includes several details/facts explaining the cause and outcome. Interprets significance. Communicates character's viewpoint/position. Makes use of some available primary source documents.	Written in letter format. Makes use of transitions. Includes sentences of varied length and structure.	Voice is appropriate for the time and audience. Some of the character's personality is apparent.	Word choice is mostly engaging and appropriate for the audience and historical setting.	The writing mostly follows the rules of standard English for usage, spelling of commonly used words, capitalization, and punctuation for the most part.
2	Includes some summary but essential components of the event(s) including the cause or outcome are missing. Provides little interpretation of the significance of the event. Character's viewpoint/ position is unclear. Makes little use of available primary source documents.	Mostly written in letter format, although with some lapses. Transitions are not used effectively. Includes limited sentences of varied length and structure.	Appropriate voice is developing, but is not appropriate for the time or audience. Little of the character's personality is apparent.	Word choice is developing, but limited. Words lack engagement and may not be appropriate.	The writing generally follows the rules of standard English for usage, spelling of commonly used words, capitalization, and punctuation. Errors are distracting and prevent comprehension.
1	Fails to summarize the essential components of the event. Provides no interpretation of the significance. Character's viewpoint/position is not provided. Makes no use of primary source documents.	Not written in a letter format. No transitions present. Sentences are not varied in length or structure.	Voice is not appropriate for the time or audience. Character's personality is not apparent.	Word choice is limited and not appropriate for the audience or historical setting.	The writing fails to follow the rules of standard English for usage, spelling of commonly used words, capitalization, and punctuation.

Letter \_\_\_\_/20    Enclosure \_\_\_\_/5    Bonus \_\_\_\_/5    Total \_\_\_\_

## Letter #2: The Battle of Antietam and Emancipation Proclamation (1863)

Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarize the who, what, when, where and outcome of the battle <b>and</b> the proclamation and explain the significance <input type="checkbox"/> Connect events to the larger conflict of the Civil War <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to <b>either</b> the specific language of the proclamation <b>OR</b> letters from Civil War soldiers
Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> State your position on the battle and proclamation <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how these events will impact your life and those around you
Looking Ahead	<input type="checkbox"/> What does this mean for Southern hopes of independence?
Bonus	<input type="checkbox"/> Research how the telegraph impacts the war <input type="checkbox"/> Research Prisoners of War- what were the conditions like in prisons and how were prisoners exchanged? <input type="checkbox"/> Research espionage in the Civil War
Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> 400-500 words (typed or hand-written)
Enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> Your choice- creativity encouraged

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3	Mostly summarizes the 4 W's and includes several details/facts explaining the cause and outcome. Interprets significance. Communicates character's viewpoint/position. Makes use of some available primary source documents.	Written in letter format. Makes use of transitions. Includes sentences of varied length and structure.	Voice is appropriate for the time and audience. Some of the character's personality is apparent.	Word choice is mostly engaging and appropriate for the audience and historical setting.	The writing mostly follows the rules of standard English for usage, spelling of commonly used words, capitalization, and punctuation for the most part.
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## Letter #3: The Battle of Gettysburg (1863)

Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarize the who, what, when, where and outcome of the battle and explain the significance <input type="checkbox"/> Connect to the larger conflict of the Civil War <input type="checkbox"/> Reference the specific language in Lincoln's Gettysburg address
Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> State your position on the battle <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how this event impacts your life and those around you
Looking Ahead	<input type="checkbox"/> Predict how the South will respond to this loss
Bonus	<input type="checkbox"/> Research advances in weaponry <b>OR</b> medical treatment during the Civil War <input type="checkbox"/> Research African-American participation in the Civil War
Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> 400-500 words (typed or hand-written)
Enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> Your choice- creativity encouraged

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## Letter #4: Surrender at Appomattox Court House and Lincoln's Assassination (1865)

Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarize the who, why, what, when, where and outcome of the events <input type="checkbox"/> Connect to the larger conflict of the Civil War <input type="checkbox"/> Reference how the prices of goods has increased
Personal	<input type="checkbox"/> State your position on the South's decision to surrender and the assassination of Lincoln <input type="checkbox"/> Describe how this event impacts your life and those around you
Looking Ahead	<input type="checkbox"/> Will the States ever be able to truly reunite after this long, bitter and bloody war?
Bonus	<input type="checkbox"/> Research the state of the economy in the South, especially the escalating price of goods <input type="checkbox"/> Research sharecropping and the effect this had on former slaves
Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> 400-500 words (typed or hand-written)
Enclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> Your choice- creativity encouraged!

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