**Writing Module Portfolio**

**Lesson Plan**

**Objectives:**

* Teach students in a high school Virginia and U.S. History class about the reasons why the United States won the Revolutionary War against Great Britain, including a discussion about the Battle of Yorktown.
* These objectives are being taught in conjunction with Virginia SOL requirement VUS 4d in Virginia and U.S. History.
* These objectives are also being taught in conjunction with the article *De Grasse to the Rescue at Yorktown*.
* These objectives are also being taught in conjunction with a short video on the Battle of Yorktown.
* Students will do the reading, watch the video, and then give around a paragraph length response to a question related to about what was in their opinion the greatest contributing factor to America winning the Revolutionary War.
* Students will also engage in a classroom discussion about their assignment, and we will create a list of factors contributing to America’s victory over Britain.
* At the end of this lesson students should be able to understand the multiple factors involved in America’s victory over Britain in the Revolutionary War.

**Essential Questions/Rationale:**

* This material is being taught for a couple of reasons; as this lesson is in conjunction with a Virginia SOL requirement, and the Battle of Yorktown is an extremely important event in American history that contributed heavily to America’s independence.
* In my opinion students will be interested in a major event in American history that happened in Virginia.
* Students should also be more interested in reading the article with pictures and a video with some action in it, instead of a lecture.
* The reading and video should also help students understand the material better, as they cover many topics involved in the lesson.
* The writing assignment has a variety of correct answers or responses.
* The writing assignment and discussion will help students learn more about the multiple factors involved in America’s victory over Britain.

**Instructional Steps:**

* Introduction- I will give a brief introduction about the topic we are going to cover. Estimated time: around one minute
* Students will complete reading *De Grasse to the Rescue at Yorktown*. Estimated time: around ten minutes.
* Students will watch the video on the Battle of Yorktown. The video is around ten minutes.
* I will briefly point out that Ben Franklin was one of the negotiators in the Treaty of Paris (Library of Congress, 2010). The reading talks about that, but does not specifically mention that. Estimated time: less than one minute
* Assessment- Students will have around five minutes to answer the question about what was in their opinion the greatest contributing factor to the America’s victory over the British in the American Revolution.
* We will discuss the students’ answers to the question, and create a list of causes of why the U.S. defeated the British. Estimated time: 10-15 minutes
* Conclusion- I will make a few concluding remarks about the lesson. Estimated time: around a minute
* Total lesson time: around 40-45 minutes

**Assignment Example:**

Question: In your opinion what was the greatest contributing factor to America’s victory in the Revolutionary War? Was it the Battle of Yorktown, Ben Franklin, George Washington, France getting involved in the war, lack of British public support for the war, or Great Britain’s involvement in conflicts in other parts of their empire?

Response: In my opinion the greatest contributing factor to America’s victory in the Revolutionary War was the Battle of Yorktown. While the other factors mentioned in the question were factors in America’s victory, Yorktown was where America’s dream of independence became a reality. The British lost the will to fight after the surrender of Cornwallis Army at Yorktown. Yorktown affected British public opinion more than British public opinion affected Yorktown. The French or George Washington did not defeat the British single handily. They and American troops all came together at Yorktown to force the British to surrender.

**Assignment Checklist**

The person completes the assignment, and it looks like the person has given thoughtful consideration to their answer.

The factor that the person gives in the answer is at least a factor involved in America defeating the British. For example a student that said that Abraham Lincoln was the main factor in America defeating the British would not be a correct answer since he was not a factor at all.

The person provides some logical reasoning and evidence to explain why the factor they choose was the greatest factor in America defeating the British during the Revolutionary War.

**Article and Video Links**

* *De Grasse to the Rescue at Yorktown*- <http://su8bj7jh4j.search.serialssolutions.com.ezproxy.lib.vt.edu:8080/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rfr_id=info:sid/summon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:journal&rft.genre=article&rft.atitle=DE+GRASSE+TO+THE+RESCUE+AT+YORKTOWN&rft.jtitle=American+History&rft.au=Robert+N+Bee&rft.date=2006-12-01&rft.pub=Weider+History+Group&rft.issn=1076-8866&rft.volume=41&rft.issue=5&rft.spage=30&rft.externalDocID=1167146681>
* Battle of Yorktown video- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62PNj8LVgZY>

**Notes**

* A VT ID and Password will be needed to access the article. The article can also be accessed through the VT Library website with your ID and Password.
* I do not have access to specific history textbooks as of now; however, this lesson could also be done in conjunction with a textbook on Virginia and/or American history.

**Bibliography**

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Virginia Department of Education, (2008). *History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools – January 2008: Virginia and United States History*. Retrieved from website: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\_docs/history\_socialscien ce/next\_version/stds\_va\_ushistory.pdf

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