

Battle Cry Question and Answer Assignment Instructions

It is imperative that you read all assignment instructions carefully.

First, you should know that this is an INDIVIDUAL assignment and you will earn your own score for your own work. The class has been randomly divided into several groups, each with about 15 members. During this two-week assignment, you and your group members will ask questions, then answer them, on material you have been reading about in chapters 21-26 in the McPherson book *Battle Cry of Freedom*.

In short, each student will post AT LEAST six significant questions, one from each chapter (by the Sunday deadline). Then you will take the following week to answer six questions FROM SIX DIFFERENT CHAPTERS posed by six DIFFERENT members of your group, (by the Sunday deadline).

No student may answer a question until 11:56pm, one minute after the first week "question posting" deadline. (Moodle forums show the exact time when posts have been made, so no "early birds" are allowed.)

Answering questions during the second week will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Once a question has been answered, it is no longer "open" for answering by another student. One question gets one answer. That's it. Obviously, it is important to avoid procrastination during the second week of the assignment. (Waiting until Sunday of the first week deadline to post your six questions is just fine though. There is no "reward" for posting questions early.)

EXPECTATIONS AND SCORING

Each question and answer will receive a score from 0 to 3, with 3 being "excellent". To receive the maximum credit for this assignment, you will need to ask at least six "excellent" questions and provide six "excellent" answers by the deadlines. Your goal is to earn 36 points over the next two weeks.

NOTE: I am providing you with all of the guidelines in this instruction page AND I am also providing you with an example of what I'm looking for. Click [here](#) to see a sample question and answer that are both "excellent", earning full-credit.

NOTE #2: You are not writing questions like you see each week in your video quizzes. Questions that can be answered with a single word do not belong in this forum. Question: "Who was the president of the Confederacy" Answer: "Jefferson Davis" would only earn 1 point each. 1 out of 3 points is a 33%, or VERY low grade of F, although it is better than a zero.

My hope is that each student will achieve the maximum grade for this assignment. Therefore, even though you are required to post six questions and answers, during the SECOND week of the assignment, a student ***may*** post up to two "extra" questions, one from chapter 27 and one from chapter 28.

In this way, if your initial questions or answers fail to earn the maximum score, the sum of the scores

for the two extra credit questions could definitely help you to earn the maximum score.

IMPORTANT: You may only answer questions during the second week if you have posted questions in the first week. If you only produce three questions, you can only answer three questions.

WARNING: MISSING DEADLINES AS A GROUP MEMBER: If you fail to post your six questions by the Sunday deadline, you are not entitled to answer any other group members' questions and will be removed from the group. Here's the reason... How can you NOT post questions yourself, then go ahead and expect to answer other student questions, leaving those students without any questions to answer themselves?

Finally, you should realize that this assignment is worth approximately three times the amount of a single weekly quiz.

HOW I WILL SCORE YOUR POSTS AND REPLIES

3 - Excellent post or reply, containing analysis, depth, or credible support for any statement. Student clearly asks or answers the question, has clearly contemplated the question or dilemma, or illustrates comprehension and an understanding of the issue. Response is well-written, free of grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.

2 - A fine post or reply which does not quite rise to the level of a "3", but nevertheless, adds to the academic knowledge level of the the group.

1 - A post or reply that is not well written or supported or one that fails to address the question or issue at hand.

0 - Off topic, poorly written (typos, spelling, etc.), or inappropriate to the analytical level of this assignment (Who was the president of the Confederacy?)

THE FINER DETAILS

- To reply to a person's specific question/post, be sure to click the specific blue "reply link" of the post you are replying to. (this is called maintaining a "thread" and it will keep the questions and answers organized)
- Use proper academic language and etiquette (avoid slang, smilies, all lower-case text, internet chat abbreviations such as IMHO or OMG, etc.). I cannot emphasize enough, that a post or reply filled with spelling and grammar mistakes shows a real lack of effort, especially in this day of spelling and grammar checkers.
- Cite your sources when you make statements that are not considered common knowledge. (McPherson p.147) or (Ward p.89) or (Video Episode 1) Again, see the "excellent" example question and answer.
- This forum allows you to add pictures directly to your posts. When appropriate, include them. See the INSTRUCTION videos in the top Moodle "block" if you don't already know how to do this.

Finally, and this is important, an ORGANIZED FORUM is crucial for this assignment. I must know who

is posting the questions, and later, who is doing the answering.

Each of your six questions will be in a separate post. You will need to include the word "Question", followed by "Chapter #", followed by just a very short bit of descriptive text on what the question is about. This information **MUST APPEAR IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF EACH ONE OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL QUESTION POSTS**. Examples:

Question - Chapter 21 - Vicksburg

OR

Question - Chapter 22 - Jefferson Davis

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