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Week 7 Forum

The Divided Union

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The Divided Union

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, February 13, 2016, 5:01 PM

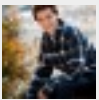
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

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BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: The Divided Union

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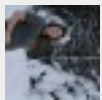
Ken Burns' strengths

by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 11:02 AM

I like how all these sources work together to provide a broad sense of understanding for these topics. Burns' video supplies a lot of diaries and personal experiences of the events for you to see the emotion. While the Divided Union video incorporated a re-enactment of a battle to provide even better visuals for a fuller understanding. The textbook allows you to imagine the Civil War the way you see it. Although, I do believe the Burns' video to be more interactive and more rich in content than the Divided Union video. Burns' video does a better job of conveying more detail about the war. I feel he takes the time to go more in depth about a subject matter in the Civil War.

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Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Carissa Kernutt](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 1:55 PM

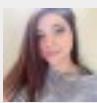
I think these three topics all have different information to offer as a whole. I believe that Burn's overall does a better job, because he adds in so much emotion. His films are packed with photos, emotional music choices, and a lot of important history. But, when it comes down to it the book definitely has more history to it, it explains more in depth what was going on during the Civil War. Re-enactments are very controversial, personally I do not enjoy them and I believe that they do not show what truly happened during that time period.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:10 PM



I think the corresponding emotion with the facts from the book and article form a strong bond. Not put together, the three wouldn't be as powerful, but all together I understand a lot of the aspects in more depth. I agree with the re-enactment statement, it varies in factual information, but sometimes helps paint a better picture in my mind about the topic.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:30 PM

Do you think the emotion factor helps you interact more with the episodes?

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Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 12:14 PM

I believe the emotional aspect engages you more in the material and entices you to keep watching and learning. I agree the re-enactments can be controversial and sometimes misleading but I think they still give a good idea of what battle would have looked like. I think the book and article can lay down a great factual based foundation while the episodes can really provide the emotional punch that it gives.

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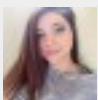
Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Thomas Brokaw](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 1:40 PM

I believe the emotional factor has helped to sense and relate more deeply to the emotions, feelings and thinking of the soldiers, generals, presidents, slaves and hospital workers. I'm not sure without the enhanced empathy that I would have had the same emotional understanding for what it must have been like for troops to travel as many miles as they did by marching or on horseback. I thought the Burns effect enhanced my empathetic response to the material. .

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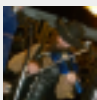
Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 6:19 PM

Without the emotional factor playing a role, I don't know if I would feel as if I fully understood who these two men were. I don't think it was the most important role in me understanding them and their lifestyle, but It definitely was a key role in grabbing my attention and wanting me to learn more about them.

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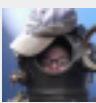
Re: Ken Burns' strengths

by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 1:31 PM

Absolutely. In fact, I feel like that is one of the things that Ken Burns does best with his filmmaking. He is very good at using images combined with music, sound effects, and storytelling to incite emotion from the viewers. To me, it makes the viewing process much more entertaining, and as a result much more fulfilling as well.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: The Divided Union
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 12:55 PM

When comparing the different sources of information, I think they all supplement each other pretty well. Burns does a good job keeping me interested (he did an especially good job with the Wilderness Battles), Divided Union also made the locations real by showing us footage of the video hosts in the actual battle locations (Burns shows us mostly photos), and McPherson's book provides us with plenty of information that the videos lack. I would say the book provides the most information especially in the details, like the politics of the war. Burn's series really brought them to life though.

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Re: The Divided Union
by [Carissa Kernutt](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 11:14 AM

I was disappointed when I found out that some of the video clips in Burn's video was from the famous movie Gone With the Wind. When comparing these three sources all together they all have several things in common such as the same information, but the only downside is each source comes across differently. Just like you said, the book lacks pictures but is packed with history information. In the twelve minute video clip we did not learn anything new and they showed us the battle site of the Wilderness Battle, which for me brought history to life. I think we could all imagine what both sides struggled with being in the thick forest. In Burn's episode, we always learn a lot from the films, but I always feel like he leads us to false images and videos. To me it is getting harder and harder to watch as it seems as if it is all a lie.

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Re: All a lie
by [Thomas Brokaw](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 1:52 PM

Burns is a photographer and filmmaker. As such, he would use the image if it helped the story. He would not have been concerned with using an image taken on one battlefield and using it with a different battle. There have been several images used more than once in the Burns series. Pictures of dead soldiers on the battlefield have been used more than once to represent dead soldiers on the battlefield for one battle or another. I notice however Burns does not use actors and fake pictures. At least I don't think he does. So there must have been an ethical line of sorts he was guided by when he put his series together.

Food for thought... the sounds used as background (canons and rifles firing, horse-drawn wagons, etc.) were not actual civil war sounds recorded as they happened either.

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Re: All a lie
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 1:28 PM

I might go a step further and say yes, Burns does use images that help the story, but I have a hard time believing that he would falsify the stories behind them on purpose. There are plenty of pictures out there that he can use, and a great number of critics that watch his films. It would be too easy for him to get caught if he were blatantly trying to falsify the images. I believe that he absolutely has an ethical line which he follows, but there is plenty of room for human error.

As far as the sounds go, they obviously weren't *actual* Civil War recordings as the technology for that didn't quite exist yet, as far as I know at least, but I do feel like they help add a great deal to the mood of his documentaries.

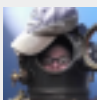
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Re: All a lie
by [Sara Baker](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 5:36 PM

I question your validity when stating that his documentary was all a lie. Yes, the sounds and music wasn't recorded directly from the time period, however, there is no way of knowing, outside of personal statements and written accounts what things sounded like, so it is not a lie, it is the best representation of the sound and music of the period Burns could provide. And are the pictures all fallacy? Were they not real people, dead or otherwise? Stating that it is "all a lie," is both untrue and could be construed as short sighted. We did not live during the Civil War, so one could argue that everything, no matter the context, is a lie because we did not see it ourselves. Was 9/11 a lie, simply because we did not all witness it firsthand. Sorry if I've come across as harsh but I think that your statement was lacking in forethought. Again, I mean no disregard for your opinion, just stating that I believe very differently.

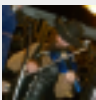
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Re: The Divided Union
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 3:07 PM

This is true, and it is disappointing to learn so much of the information has been falsified. It is very entertaining though and provides a lot of visuals, which is an important factor to me. I love seeing the the pictures of the the soldier camps and towns of that age. The reenactments from Divided Union were neat as well. I liked seeing the uniforms in color.

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Using Complimentary Sources
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 4:53 PM

I feel like all of our sources end up complimenting each other quite well. The information that we get from Ken Burns is not only limited, but as we have discussed before, is meant as much for entertainment as it is for education. The readings from *Battle Cry Of Freedom* have done a good job of expanding on the subjects from the film series while also introducing us to even more information. One example of the effectiveness of using multiple sources is the subject of medical care during the war. While Burns likes to glorify the field hospitals a bit, both the book and the short clip expanded on the appalling conditions in which the soldiers were treated. The book talks about how “Soldiers dreaded hospitals and sometimes went to great lengths to conceal wounds or illnesses in order to avoid them.” (McPherson, *Battle Cry Of Freedom*, 486) and the clip mentioned the investigations by the Sanitary Commission due to the conditions themselves. I would say that using all of these sources together is the most effective means possible to learn as much as we can in the short time we have.

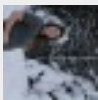
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Cumulative Content
by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 5:12 PM

I enjoyed episode 6 because of the extra information on Lee and Grant. The background information helped me see these Generals as human beings rather than just Civil War leaders and the battles they fought. The 12 minute video gave a brief explanation of the events that the episode also covered minus the in depth details behind each of the Generals. I feel like the 12 minute video and the Battle Cry Of Freedom both focus on each battle and achievements the individuals participated in, yet the episode gave us more of a behind the scenes look. They all 3 work well together in the fact that one gives detail about them as people along with their careers and the other two talk mainly about their war experience.

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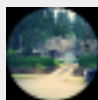
Re: Cumulative Content
by [Carissa Kernutt](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 9:45 PM

Extra information that we haven't heard/seen/or read before is always a nice change! I liked how episode 6 went into more depth about the hospitals, as well as Ulysses and Robert E Lee. It was seeing the actual battlefield of The Wilderness Battle in the twelve minute video. It makes things more realistic, and a lot easier to imagine unlike the book and the episodes we watch. Sometimes we see the same pictures in the episode

so it is hard to get a good grasp into imagination.

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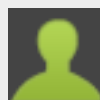
Sources; effective or not?

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 8:50 PM

When compared to the other sources that we have been exposed to in this class the textbook is not necessarily worse but more tedious to get through. Though the clip from the Divided Union documentary has a quicker pace it does not make up for the lack of information. The Ken Burns documentary is a nice middle ground on both the time it takes to get through it and the amount of information it has in it, however from the previous articles we have read in this class it makes it hard to trust all the information that is given. These sources do work well together because they are both in-depth and efficient sources that give the reader/viewer the option to use whichever source better benefits them at the time; for example: the text when the reader is first learning the subject and the Divided Union clip to review quickly if needed.

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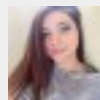
Re: Burns series middle ground?

by [Thomas Brokaw](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 7:16 PM

I though both films offered the same pace of information, although presented differently. Burns does a good job of keeping the viewer interested whereas the Divided Union would bore someone not especially interested in the Civil War. I agree that the textbook offered more detail and was tedious. The three sources offered perspectives from the leaders to the soldiers in the trenches to the Irish in New York City. The different perspectives raised different questions: How does a general waste young men by the tens of thousands and continue on? How does a soldier let himself be wasted so cheaply? Were the Irish in New York City smart to fight the draft? This, for me, is where the three sources complimented each other. Keeping four years worth of battles in chronological order was another matter. For that I needed the 'middle ground' view, more of a brief overview. And maps helped me see things laid out better. In the film Divided Union there were people standing on the same spot of grass where a battle took place 150 years ago. This did little for me although apparently was effective for others.

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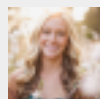
Re: Sources; effective or not?

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:28 PM

I agree with how the book goes through the generals more tedious than Ken Burn's and the little clip, but the little details it explains helps you understand the stuff left out in the quicker summaries of their past. I liked how you phrased your opinion.

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Re: Sources; effective or not?

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 9:04 PM

Caitlyn,

I found what you wrote about the textbook to be very similar to how I have been viewing it. It is very "tedious" and sometimes takes me multiple times of reading certain sections a few times to be able to completely soak in all the detail and make sure I am completely understanding every bit of it. However, I had different views on the videos. They do contain a much faster pace but I felt that they didn't contain as much detail and information as the book provides. The faster pace does make me feel like I need to rewind and re-watch some scenes as I do with reading the book but I have found that for me personally, I take much more understanding out of the book. But it is very nice to be able to revert to the videos after reading a long chapter and being able to put everything together and picture each scene out there on the battle field.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Source comparison
by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:32 PM

I think that these three sources compliment each other well together when it comes to covering all the important topics. But each source on their own most definitely has its weaknesses. The video is strong in explaining each battle well and its leaders and generals and is very clear on casualties, which is often something that is over looked in this subject. However, the video lacks talking about what happened outside of battles, like hospitals and why these battles even occurred. The article was strong when talking about why the civil war occurred and included very specific details when talking about the battles and what caused each one. They provided good alternative sources and options for more on the subject. Such as “Gone with the Wind.” One thing that was a little neglected was talking about generals like Lee and Grant. And I think that our book provides a pretty round variety of information on the battles and the care after battles and what happens outside of war. All together I think that all of these sources could have provided much more information about the newly introduced battles. I also find it extremely important to always incorporate and reiterate why these battles occur.

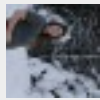
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Re: Source comparison
by [Tyler Peckham](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 2:16 PM

I agree each source has its weaknesses but all come together quite nice. Each source compliments the other where it fails. The videos are great for describing the more action packed part of the Civil War but can be a little lose on the details. The article gives a good overall understanding but I feel like the information can be limited. The book seems to fill in the holes where all the other sources cant but doesn't have much life to it compared to the others.

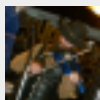
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Strength and Weakness
by [Carissa Kernutt](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:40 PM

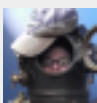
All three sources complimented each other graciously in my opinion. They all stated good hard facts of history that you could see followed through with all three of the sources. For once I felt like all of the sources stated the same thing on how destructive the Civil War was compared to all American wars combined. "The Divided Union" was a big weakness.. The episode was not intriguing, and he even used clips from other films such as, Gone With the Wind. As much as I appreciate that movie, I do not want to see history through the eyes of a foe filmmaker. It made it seem as if this was not even a part of history, or it was lost. In the twelve minute video they talked about the changes in communication. The Telegraph for Ulysses S. Grant was a huge deal and he figured out what his enemy was doing on a daily basis. Steam engines were also a huge part of the civil war and they were named after river systems. Medical was one of the biggest changes, as women stepped up for that time period to help wounded men. Even starting different organizations to help out the troops. The wilderness battle was the first battle that Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant met, even though the battle lasted two days they were fighting amongst trees which meant you could not see the enemy. In the end all of these sources have a lot in common, and they made it clear that it is a stamp in our history.

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Re: Strength and Weakness
by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 1:22 PM

I think what I appreciated most about both the book and the short video was the attention to the negative aspects of medical care during the Civil War. Ken Burns touched briefly on the conditions that were present, but he also focused more on the positive aspects than the negative. The opposite was true of the other two sources. They seemed to concentrate more on the fact that people died in the hospitals that may have been just fine if they hadn't seeked help in the first place.



Re: Strength and Weakness

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:36 PM

Yes, the videos failed to elaborate on all of the medical advances that were made during the war. Especially the improvements that the U.S. Sanitary Commission made. Burns seemed for focus more on the bad stuff for drama.



Re: 1864 election, ambulances, and Sherman's 300 mile supply line

by [Thomas Brokaw](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 11:18 PM

Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant

The McPherson textbook provides greater detail than either the Burns episode or the Divided Union documentary. For example: McPherson, page 721, notes that Southern leaders were hoping to influence the 1964 presidential election in that, “If the tyrant at Washington be defeated, his infamous policy will be defeated with him.” The comments by Longstreet regarding the 1964 presidential election are in the textbook as well as the Burns series, but not the Divided Union documentary.

The Divided Union documentary did not use a carefully chosen narrator as did Burns. They didn’t have a sound track of music, the sounds of wagons being pulled by horses, or the sounds of battle. They explained the different choices taken by Grant and Lee without exploring the personalities and backgrounds that made them who they were and therefore influenced them to do what they did.

Civil War medical care and hospitals

What stood out to me were the use of ambulances, ambulance drivers, and the beginning of a more systematic approach to supporting casualties. McPherson textbook, pages 484–485. The Burn’s series doesn’t mention it. The Divided Union mentions ambulances briefly. I believe this is important because one has to wonder what it must have been like to know that if you were a soldier and you were wounded, you were pretty much on your own.

Burns covers the dreary outcomes of being a injured, but without the ambulance. The Divided union documentary refers to an ambulance in passing while showing walking wounded being helped into a horse–drawn wagon.

The Battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Kennesaw Mountain

There is much more detail in the McPherson textbook than in the Burns episode or the Divided Union documentary regarding Sherman’s advance on Atlanta, stalling at Kennesaw Mountain, and Grant’s ten–month siege at Petersburg. McPherson, for example, page 748, shows the quote by Sherman used in the Burn’s film: “A big Indian war,” but the quote was Sherman’s response to the soft, greasy roads caused by heavy rain on the red clay road, not mentioned in the Burns series.

McPherson’s version of Sherman’s fighting at Kennesaw Mountain against Johnson had a lot more detail and explanation than either of the videos. On page 748–749, in the McPherson textbook, Sherman is just as concerned for his 300 mile supply line as he is about fighting battles, especially when Confederate General Johnston had ordered General Forrest to cut Sherman’s supply line. In response, Sherman ordered 8000 soldiers to track down Forrest and stop him. Forrest defeated the Union soldiers Sherman sent in what was described as a route, and “the most humiliating Union defeat in the western theater.” This was not mentioned in either films and is an example of a major piece of the story that didn’t fit either the Burns series or the documentary.



Re: Not complimentary for me

by [Thomas Brokaw](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 1:28 PM

Any three credible sources could be argued to be helpful. I did not find that the three sources complimented each other. The Burns series is easy to watch and informative. But by itself, would not have left me with enough to have a complete picture. The textbook gives so much detail I had to find another source to tie all of the events together. I found helpful articles and lots of maps on the internet. After watching the Burns film I would go to the internet to study maps and to read short articles that improved my overall understanding and better prepared me for the slower, more detailed grind through the textbook.

If I were not in a history class and just watching the Burns series because it looked interesting, I would forget most of the details in a week. The textbook had everything you need to know in one place but would have been, by itself, a lot to keep track of, both geographically and sequentially. For me, the internet plugged a hole between the Burns film and the textbook.

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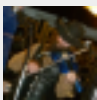
Re: Not complimentary for me

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:24 PM

I can see where you're coming from because many individuals have different ways of learning and absorbing the material. For myself the three together brought everything into perspective although individually each source seemed to lack what another had. I admire that you went the extra mile in order to fully grasp the content.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not complimentary for me

by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 1:04 PM

You make a very good point about the fact that if we were to watch the documentary on it's own that it would be easy to forget large parts of it. I think a big reason for that is that there is a ton of information packed into the show, but the time constraints really make the facts come at us really fast. While taking notes to prepare for the quizzes, I find myself pausing the show at least once every minute or two to jot stuff down, yet I still manage to miss things that are on the quiz.

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Re: Not complimentary for me

by [Sara Baker](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 5:27 PM

I agree. The textbook in this course is rather dry, and packed with information. The information is not a bad thing, but they way it is written makes everything blur together somewhat, no matter how carefully I read it. The documentary by Ken Burns is a nice reprieve, but I to find myself doing a lot of independent research to make sure I've connected the dots in the correct order between the two sources. In addition, articles, though helpful, tend to be a hit and miss depending on where they've come from, so they also cause me to check back on dates and facts that can be proven accurate, just to make sure I don't confuse them myself. Great point, I'm glad to hear that I'm not the only one who thinks the textbook is very dry.

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Re: Not complimentary for me

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:54 PM

Thomas,

I enjoyed how you added a four source, how the internet helped you. I find it very true also that if we were just reading the book all that information squeezed in there begins to be a lot to handle and process. But having the video to help bring the information read together is such an awesome option for

us to have. I have used the internet a few times to look things up and help with my understanding on some of these long drawn out battles but I also find myself not being able to trust many cites due to already having an understanding that the civil war has been construed in some ways through some sources. Therefore it makes it a bit harder for me to find a specific source trustworthy and providing the information I'm looking for.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Sources and their Audience

by [Sara Baker](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 11:29 PM

When the Civil War consumed the United States it became a battle that would still be felt on the earth over a hundred years later. That is the feeling the article conveys and injects into its reader’s minds. While I think that each source had its advantages, I felt the article more of a “snippet” than anything else. It was almost opposite to the video, which, still lacking in comparison to “Battle Cry of Freedom” still managed to be succinct and informative. I felt the video and the book paired well together, however, in spite of the articles emotional platitudes and descriptive words fell, lacking of any resolution or even the attempt at a conclusion of the information given. Though I did feel that both the video and article were lacking in some form or another, the video was much more informative and less wish washy as well as inconclusive. The book, as usual, presented the information in a distinct and informative way, while the video gave more of an overall picture as well as contrasts to the civil war in examples such as Pearl Harbor. Each had its distinct audience and purpose, so in spite of the fact that I would always recommend books and historical documents first, I think each source presented had its own purpose and distinct audience.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Sources and their Audience

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:45 PM

The book is a great source of information, but the fact that it's so dense and dry makes me thankful for the videos. Its a nice break from the reading for people that like visuals.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Sources and their Audience

by [Jake Beckwith](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 12:35 PM

I have to agree with you that the videos are a nice respite from the dryness of the reading, but I personally really enjoy the depth of the information in the book. I feel like the documentary, while informative, is more of a quick going over of the events and it seems to leave a few questions in my mind. I like how the book fills in the missing pieces and covers the events more in depth.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Sources and their Audience

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:38 PM

Indeed. I think it would greatly benefit from some pictures though.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Sources and their Audience

by [Carissa Kernutt](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 12:14 PM

In history reading a book over watching a video always seems like the overall better thing to do. It just feels more real than watching a video, especially since Ken Burn's episodes have received ridicule with not stating true historic facts or bending them in some way, shape, or form. Overall we are learning a lot from different resources which is a great thing!



Re: Sources and their Audience
by Katelyn Rasmussen – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:46 PM

Sara,

I found your post very similar to how I felt about the three different sources. I enjoyed also that each source held a sort of different view point or different subject focus on the civil war. However in the end I would also choose a reading as the most recommended source for accuracy and detail. One thing I feel very strongly about that you incorporated in your post was that the video was very wish washy, i completely agree with that and with each civil war video I have watched thus far, I see this tendency over and over. On a subject that is already confusing to me and very controversial, I've found that movies havent been the best source for me.

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