



Learning with Lincoln Institute

Sponsored by Teaching with Primary Sources at
Eastern Illinois University and
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Endorsed by the
Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission



Investigating Author's Purpose with Primary Source Documents

by Lou Conwell



Students will develop a better understanding of author's purpose and develop a greater sense of history during the 1860's through the use of primary source documents from the digital collections of the American Memory collections of the Library of Congress.

Overview

Subject:	Language Arts/Social Sciences/History
Time Required:	Three 30 minute class periods
Grade Range:	K - 5
Understanding Goal:	Primary sources provide students with a glimpse into the author's world of the 1860's
Investigative or Essential Question:	How can primary sources help us develop an understanding of an author's purpose? How can a primary source help us gain a different perspective on history?



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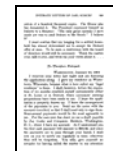


Materials

Purpose of Library of Congress Items:

The purpose of the selected Library of Congress materials is to provide opportunities to examine documents which have a clearly defined purpose for the author. The original intent of the documents vary: personal letters that express opinions or reflections intended for a private audience, some documents are intended as persuasive devices whose audience may or may not be directed to English speakers, and yet another is a poem intended to express grief. All documents express varying viewpoints which will also help the students develop a keener understanding of events which play a part in our country's history

Library of Congress Items: Bibliographical Information attached.



Additional Materials:



Document Analysis Form (attached)



PowerPoint Slides

Required Vocabulary: primary source document, poetry, personal letter, audience

Prior Content Knowledge: Students will need to have an understanding of different types of literature, a basic knowledge of Abraham Lincoln's life and an awareness of the conflict and diversity of opinion which divided our country during the "great rebellion".

Technology Skills: Technology skills which students will assist students are the ability to use search tools within the Library of Congress website. As extensions to learning, students will also be able to develop word processing skills and/or use power point to share information and present ideas.



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Standards

Illinois Learning Standards: 1B2a,1B2b,1B2c, 1C2a, 1C2b, 1C2b, 1C2d, 1C2e
2
4A2b, 4B2a, 4B2b,
5B2a, 5c2a,
14D2,
16A2b, 16A2c

For information on specific Illinois Learning Standards go to www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/

Actions

Description of Teacher Actions:

Activating Prior Knowledge/Anticipatory Set

1. Introduce lesson and use PowerPoint to develop ideas and solicit information from the student discussion.
2. Review information about primary sources, Examine Primary sources in collaborative groups. Record information on data sheets. Share information, ideas and reflections in a whole group.

Student Investigative Activity

3. Extensions-students may choose between looking at LOC website to find other Lincoln era documents and analyze as primary sources or write a letter or journal entry, or create a poster.

Best Instructional Practices:

Teaching for Understanding

Students have the opportunity to ask/search for additional sources to find answers to questions and the PowerPoint presentation encourages students to share ideas and allow for immediate feedback to check for understanding.

Differentiated Instruction

The selected primary sources are varied in their level of difficulty and students will have an opportunity to make a decision about which type of project they wish to complete.



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Attachments

Library of Congress Resources



Title:		Grace Bedell to Abraham Lincoln, Thursday, October 18, 1860 (Typed copy)	
	Collection or Exhibit	Abraham Lincoln Papers	
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text	
	URL:	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/040/0402800/malpage.db&recNum=0	
Title:		ArmTe Du General F. Sigel. Avis aux Etrangers Les Francais, Italiens, Allemands, Espagnols et les Autres etranger peuvent s'enroler dans un Regiment actuellement en Campagne dans la Virginie. [Poster]	
	Collection or Exhibit	Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society	
	Media Type:	Image	
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwnyhs:@field(DOCID+@lit(ac03163))	
Title:		Letter and corrected reprint of Walt Whitman's "O Captain, My Captain" with comments by author, 9 February 1888.(Walt Whitman Collection)	
	Collection or Exhibit	Words and Deeds in American History: Selected Documents Celebrating the Manuscript Division's First 100 Years	
	Media Type:	Unpublished Text	
	URL	http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field(DOCID+@lit(mcc/055))	
Title:		Intimate letters of Carl Schurz, 1841-1869	
	Collection or Exhibit	Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910	
	Media Type:	Published Text	
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/lhbumbib:@field(NUMBER+@band(lhbum+09286))	
Title:		Intimate Letters of Carl Schurz 1841-1869	
	Collection or Exhibit	Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910	
	Media Type:	Published Text	
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/lhbumbib:@field(NUMBER+@band(lhbum+09286))	
Title:		War! War! War! Rally young men of the Lower End. Your country call, 'tis duty to obey! Old Bucks in the field! [Poster]	
	Collection or Exhibit	Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society	
	Media Type:	Image	
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwnyhs:@field(DOCID+@lit(ac03273))	



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Title:	Rally! Men! Rally! Volunteers wanted! For 100 days! A few more good men wanted for 100 days! [Poster]	
	Collection or Exhibit	Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society
	Media Type:	Image
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwnyhs:@field(DOCID+@lit(ac03039))
Title:	100 Good men wanted, no boys need apply. For Col. March's Regiment, 4th Pennsylvania Reserve, now lying encamped below Baltimore, at Camp Hale. [Poster]	
	Collection or Exhibit	Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society
	Media Type:	Image
	URL	http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cwnyhs:@field(DOCID+@lit(ac03300))



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Investigating Author's Purpose with Primary Source Documents

1


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



What are some ways ideas & information would have been shared in Mr. Lincoln's time?

5


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



How could ideas & opinions intended for a large number of people be shared?

2


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



What tools could we use to help us understand an author's message ?

6


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



What are some ways people share ideas and information in the 21st century?

3


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



what clues might we use to find out when a document Was written?

7


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



What are some ideas and events of today That people in the future might be curious about ?

4


Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



How might personal ideas and thoughts be shared?

8

Learning With Lincoln:
Author's Purpose



Where might we look for clues and information about the past?

