

Internet Discussion Board Lesson Plan  
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U.S. History-10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Objectives:

- ⇒ Students will be able to respond to critical thinking questions on the topic of the Civil War.
- ⇒ Students will be able to use the Internet as a tool to aid in the educational process.

Standards and Benchmarks:

SOCIAL STUDIES:

All students will engage their peers in constructive conversations about matters of public concern by clarifying issues, considering opposing views, applying democratic values, anticipating consequences, and working toward making decisions. [Standard 6.2](#)

TECHNOLOGY:

All students will apply appropriate technologies to critical thinking, creative expression, and decision making skills. Students will use technologies to organize thoughts in a logical process. [Standard 3.4](#)

Materials needed:

- ⇒ U.S. History Discussion Board Instruction Worksheet
- ⇒ Television which is hooked up to TV GOLD for demonstration
- ⇒ Computers/Internet Access to Blackboard.com (computer lab)

Length: One class period to get students enrolled on web site

Opener: "Has anyone ever heard of or participated in a discussion board?"  
See if anyone knows, if not, proceed with directions.

Procedure:

1. Hand out Instruction Worksheet. Turn to back side and read through paragraph entitled "Your Assignment." This will give students an idea of what a "response" is, how many responses are required, how long each response should be, and when the responses are due.

2. Then proceed to go through the directions step-by-step. If TV GOLD is available (or a laser projector hooked up to a computer) invite a student up to demonstrate how each student will be required to create an account at Blackboard.com and then enroll in the course site where the discussion board is located. This should take about 5-10 minutes to get through.
3. Hopefully, by first demonstrating to the class the procedure they need to do in the computer lab, less questions will be raised from the class later on. The class will now head to the computer lab to sign up for the web site and also enroll in the classroom site. This should only take about 15 minutes if there are no technology glitches.
4. After students finish enrolling, the classroom aspect and classroom time is complete. Students are now on their own when it comes to completing the assignment. Give an allotted period of time to complete the assignment. Make sure to give a deadline including the hour and minute it must be completed by. (For instance, in my class, they had a little over a week to do this assignment and it HAD to be complete by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 23, 2002.

Assessment: Students were assessed on whether or not they completed the assignment by the deadline and if they followed directions on how many responses were required and how long the responses needed to be. Since the questions I asked were opinion-based, if students followed the directions, most received full credit.

\*\*\*Note to teachers: This lesson requires you to set-up an account on Blackboard.com (free for 60 days). You will need to understand HOW to navigate and set-up different classes (if you have more than one). You will also need to understand how to set-up the discussion board. Please note that there are no tutorials on the web site on how to do these things. I was able to figure it all out on my own with just a few difficulties. This is an extremely useful and easy tool to engage students AND it will also test your technological skills!