

Sample Assignment

This sample lesson is intended to illustrate how several of the cognitive domains from Bloom's Taxonomy can be incorporated into an assignment in which students work collaboratively to reach a goal. In this lesson, each student has to become an expert on a particular topic, then shares his or her knowledge with the rest of the group members, who then synthesize all of the knowledge into a final submission. By providing options for the final submission, the unique needs of students with different learning styles can be met.

Group Assignment: Key Battles of WWII

Assignment objective:

- Students will analyze a particular element of a key World War II battle then work with other students to synthesize contributions into a project detailing the entire battle.

Connection to module objective:

- This assignment measures the module objective: Students will describe a major battle in World War II and explain how it affected the outcome of the war.

Points possible:

30 per group, 10 for participation. Total of 40.

Steps:

1. Since this is a group assignment, I have divided the class into groups of four. Each group will be responsible for one key battle that took place during WWII. Groups will consist of the following students:

Battle of Britain: Fred Washington, Vincent Barbarino, Juan Epstein, Arnie Horshack.

Battle of the Bulge: etc.

Battle at El Alamein: etc.

Battle at Stalingrad: etc.

Battle at Midway: etc.

Battle at Guadalcanal: etc.

Battle at Iwo Jima: etc.

I have set each group up with its own group area. This is where you will do most of your work. Nobody from outside of your group, except me, can access your area. To access your group area, click the Groups icon in the global navigation menu on the far left, then click the name of your battle. Your groups area looks like a mini Canvas class, so don't confuse it with your regular class. Also, you'll want to access your group every day, perhaps even multiple times a day, to complete this assignment.

2. Each member of your group will become an “expert” on a specific element of the battle. You will need to decide among yourselves who will become experts on which elements. Here are the elements:

Opposing sides: Include generals, countries, numbers of soldiers, key strategists, other key leaders. What was each side’s outlook entering this battle? What were their strategies? Were the strategies sound? Why or why not?

Battlefield: Where did the fighting take place? Why was the battle fought there? What was the terrain like? What was unique about the fighting there? What type of artillery was used? Who won, and why? How many casualties?

Impact on the war: What impact did this battle have on the war when the battle ended? Did it change momentum during the war? What impact did it ultimately have on the outcome of the war? Why?

Impact on today’s world: What are the lingering effects of the battle on the world today? What are the effects on the countries in which the battle took place? How is the battle remembered by today’s population? Why do people today still care?

3. Once you have decided on each of your roles, you will need to do some research in order to become an expert. You can use your textbook, the library, or the Internet. Regardless of the source, you will have to evaluate its credibility and analyze the answers you find. Make sure your sources are credible. Answers found at Ned’s Neo-Nazi web site won’t cut it for this assignment.

If you are having trouble at any point, ask your fellow group members for help.

4. Write up your answers in a 1-2 page paper using a word processor outside of Canvas. When finished, copy the contents of your paper.
5. In your Canvas group, click Pages, then click +Page on the right. Name it with your element (for example: Battlefield). Paste in the contents of your paper, and click Save. Try to get this part done by April 4 at 11:59 p.m. so your group has ample time to do the group submission.
6. Access your other group members' Pages, and check out their answers. If you think someone has missed any questions, gently bring it to his or her attention. When communicating with group members, please treat each other respectfully.
7. Use any of the tools in your group area (or by email) to decide how you will present the group submission. You have the option of presenting it as a written report, web site, wiki or as a PowerPoint presentation. You can even present it using Google Slides or Google Sites. (You might want to decide this at the beginning of the assignment.) Decide who in your group will take the lead on this, who will do what in bringing the final submission together, and who will submit the project on behalf of the group.
8. Your final group submission will be an overall synthesis of your battle, including the four elements: the opposing sides, the battlefield, the impact on the war, and the impact on today’s world. Work together to make your submission cohesive. For example, if you are submitting a written report, don’t submit something that looks like you just copied answers from your four group members and pasted it into one document. The report should flow.

If you are submitting a web site, wiki, PowerPoint presentation or via Google Slides or Google Sites, include appropriate pictures, graphs, charts, sounds, or any other multimedia elements to make your points.

The group member who was chosen to submit the final project will do so here.

Group grading

You will be graded on how well your posts meet the grading rubric for this assignment. View the rubric below. The project will be submitted on behalf of all group members, and all members will receive the same grade (out of 30 points possible). It will be assessed according to the rubric, or criteria, for this assignment (see below). If you want to see an example of an exemplary group submission, click the Past Group Submissions link in the module.

If you have questions about the assignment, post them in the class discussion board called Student-to-Student questions. I will monitor the questions and clarify if needed.

Participation assessment

Access the assignment titled Key Battles Participation. In the text area, rate yourself on a scale from 1-10 (with 10 being the highest) on how well you participated in the group activity. Did you get your parts done in a timely manner? Did you answer all of the questions about your battle element in your Page? How much did you help in putting the final submission together?, etc. Type a comment or two next to your score. In the same text area, name the other members of your group, and assess them in the same manner as you assessed yourself. Make sure you put the name of your battle at the top.

I will take these scores and comments into account when giving you the final 10 points for this assignment.