

The Election of 1864
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1) **Lesson Plan Summary:**

In the past, I have tried many different approaches to try to make this period of time come more alive for the students in the hopes of making it more relevant. Although I still enjoy showing short segments of Ken Burn's *The Civil War*, in an Advanced Placement course, the students must be more actively engaged with primary sources.

Therefore, this year the students will begin this section on the Election of 1864, which some historians feel was the true turning point of the Civil War, with a review of Jennifer Weber's book, *Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln's Opponents in the North*. This review actually becomes a mini-history lesson replete with primary sources including quotes from General Sherman where he states that he has no intention in voting in the election and he feels that the political affairs of state have detracted the country's attention from the war. (This review and so much more on the life of Lincoln can be found at: **The Lincoln Institute Presents: Abraham Lincoln's Classroom.**

After the students finish reading the article, we will discuss any insights which we may have gleaned from the exposure to this review, and then, I will explain to them the rest of the lesson plan.

2) **Lesson Procedures:**

With the exception of using class time for explaining the assignment and then time at the end to process the learning experience, I do not believe in spending class time with Advanced Placement students watching them read and complete work sheets. The procedure for this assignment is very straight forward: a) each student will be assigned a one week period starting on the Saturday since that was the publication date of the *Harper's Weekly*; b) the weeks that will be examined will run between February 20, 1864 and October 8, 1864 (Gideon Welles did not write in his diary between October 16 and November 24 1864); c) the choice of weeks will be randomly drawn by the students; d) the students will have a total of 7 days to complete the assignment. The *Harper's Weekly* can be read online at: www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war-1864.htm The other two works are found under their respected names.

Objectives:

With all of my units in history, I try to incorporate as many of the U.S. History Development Committee's notes about themes in my planning. With this plan, I feel the students are further exposed to the themes of: American Diversity, Culture, Reform, Religion, Slavery and its Legacies, and finally, War and Diplomacy.

Grade Level:

Advanced Placement and highly motivated Honor's U.S. History

Materials Needed:

Computer access

Lesson Time:

Work done at home

3) Final Assessment

The 1864 Election DBQ