Year 10 History

World War One Research Assignment

Length: 800 – 1000 words.

Marks / value: 15% of the course mark.

Date due: Week 4 Term 2.

Purpose of this assignment

Australia’s involvement in World War I is regarded by many as a defining event in our history. The Gallipoli campaign and the Anzac legend forged in its aftermath continue to influence notions of Australian identity. In this assignment students will be given the opportunity to research the actual experiences of the men and women who served Australia during World War 1. This will enable students to discover how and why the Anzac legend was created and determine to what extent the Anzac legend is an accurate reflection of the service of wartime Australians.

Outcomes being assessed

HT5-5 Identifies and evaluates the usefulness of sources in the historical inquiry process.

HT5-9 Applies a range of relevant historical terms and concepts when communicating an understanding of the past.

HT5-10 Selects and uses appropriate oral, written, visual and digital forms to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences.

Task:

Research and compose a biography covering the World War I experiences of ONE Australian soldier, sailor or nurse. Your biography needs to be 800-1000 words and must be based on PRIMARY sources and refer also to relevant SECONDARY sources. You must also include a bibliography.

Understand the Task

Compose a detailed biography for ONE Australian that focusses on their service in World War I. Follow these steps:

1. Choose a WWI soldier, sailor or nurse as the subject of your research. For example, it may be a relative, someone who came from your town in Australia or elsewhere in the world, someone with the same surname as you or someone you find in library books. Use the Discovering Anzacs website listed below to check that there are primary source military records relating to your chosen person. Make sure you choose a person who has ample information available on which to base your biography – you should check that your chosen person has a number of records attached to their Discovering Anzacs entry - especially records for enlistment, service and casualty. Limited available information will NOT be a valid excuse for a brief assignment.

2. Research your chosen person and make detailed notes. Create a detailed timeline on which to structure your biography. Take notes from the primary source records that you find. Use this Google Docs timeline scaffold that also contains lots of useful information to help you understand the records.

3. Search the internet to follow the clues that you find in the official records. You must search the internet for secondary sources that provide information on military units, training camps, battlefields, battles, hospitals, troop ships etc. named in official records. This will assist you to build a picture of your person’s wartime experiences and to add interest and detail to the biography.

4. Compose your biography in sentences and paragraphs outlining the wartime experiences and biographical details of your chosen soldier, sailor or nurse. Be sure to refer to specific primary and secondary sources as historical evidence throughout your biography. See these examples of well-researched, informative biographies.
Locate Information

Start with the following websites:

1. [http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au](http://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au)  This is the key website containing the primary source **official military records** for many people who served Australia in WWI. You can search by surname, town, city or country of birth, military unit they served in, etc. Look for a person with a number of official records attached to their file.

2. [https://aif.adfa.edu.au/aif/](https://aif.adfa.edu.au/aif/)  this website has useful **summaries** of the war service of many people listed in the Discovering Anzacs site.

**Also helpful**


[https://www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/ww1](https://www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/ww1)  There are some good research guides available on this site and links to websites where you can find information about people who served.


**Major battles involving Australians**  Very helpful for finding out where your person saw active service.

**Extension opportunity:**  add depth to your information by researching the day-by-day **unit diaries** that were written by unit commanders in the field.

These links should help you to understand the **abbreviations and terms** found in military records:


There are also a number of very useful books on the 940.4 shelves in the biography and non-fiction sections of the library. The information books can be used as a source for at least the name (and possibly photograph) of someone you can research using the websites above.

Select and Analyse

Your information will mainly need to be in text but can be supported by extracts from primary sources and images. You can use this **GoogleDocs timeline scaffold** to store and organise the information for your timeline. Write down the key dates and events that you read about in your chosen person’s records. Also note down interesting details and include at times what was happening in the war in general. This provides a broader context to your information and builds a more compelling biography.

**Note:**  entries in military field records are **not always in date order**. Information about earlier dates was often just added as it came to hand. This is why building your own timeline is essential.

**Note:**  the gaps between dates in service and casualty records are usually the times when your person was in **active service**. You will need to fill in these gaps by researching what their **battalion/unit** was doing at those times. Military history is very well documented on the internet.

Organise and Synthesise

Create your biography from the information in your timeline scaffold. You may use subheadings for the key sections in your biography. **Synthesise** information **in your own words** from a number of sources. Read about how to avoid plagiarism.

Create and Present

Assignments should be typed in Google Docs and submitted according to your teacher’s instructions. Include a full, **properly written bibliography**.
Evaluate and Reflect
Use the marking guidelines below to assist you to achieve an assignment grade in the higher performance bands.

Marking guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Band</th>
<th>Marking Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Advanced** 17-20 | * A comprehensive, detailed and well-structured biography.  
* Information is drawn from a broad range of primary and secondary sources.  
* Demonstrates clear understanding of history and the methods of historical inquiry.  
* Very thorough analysis and interpretation of the variety of historical sources used.  
* Uses a range of appropriate historical terms and concepts. |
| **Highly Competent** 13-16 | * A detailed and well-structured biography.  
* Information is drawn from a range of primary and secondary sources.  
* Demonstrates an understanding of history and the methods of historical inquiry.  
* Sound analysis and interpretation of the variety of historical sources used.  
* Uses appropriate historical terms and concepts. |
| **Competent** 9-12 | * A structured biography with some detail.  
* Information is drawn from primary and secondary sources.  
* Demonstrates some understanding of history and the methods of historical inquiry.  
* Has done some analysis and interpretation of the historical sources used.  
* Uses some historical terms and concepts. |
| **Developing** 5-8 | * A basic biography with limited detail.  
* Some attempt to draw information from primary and secondary sources.  
* Demonstrates limited understanding of history and the methods of historical inquiry.  
* An attempt to interpret the historical sources used.  
* May include historical terms and concepts. |
| **Experiencing difficulty** 1-4 | * A very brief biography.  
* Demonstrates very little understanding of history and the methods of historical inquiry.  
* Limited attempt to understand and interpret the historical sources used.  
* Limited use of historical terms and concepts. |

Useful Websites

- [https://anzac-22nd-battalion.com/](https://anzac-22nd-battalion.com/) includes lots of very useful information about WWI.
- [http://www.anzacsinfrance.com/](http://www.anzacsinfrance.com/) good site for the overview of Western Front battles
- [https://www.cwgc.org/](https://www.cwgc.org/) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who served in WWI
- [http://ourmobserved.anu.edu.au/tags/world-war-1](http://ourmobserved.anu.edu.au/tags/world-war-1) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who served in WWI