



## GOAL 7 | LESSON PLAN | HIGH SCHOOL **Surrender**

**Grades:** High School

**Approximate Length of Time:** 2 hours

**Goal:** Using and referring to various sources, students will develop an argument as to whether or not Robert E. Lee's surrender of his army at Appomattox in April 1865 effectively ends the conflict known as the American Civil War.

### **Objectives:**

1. Given various primary and secondary sources, students will be able to create a timeline of events.
2. Given various primary and secondary sources, students will be able to create a well-reasoned and evidence-based argument that supports their conclusion to an inquiry question.

### **Common Core:**

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9

Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.6

Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.3

Evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and

media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.9

Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.1 & CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.1

Write arguments focused on *discipline-specific content*.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.7 & CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**NCSS STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES:**

- 1—Culture
- 2—Time, Continuity, and Change
- 3—People, Places, and Environment
- 5—Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
- 6—Power, Authority, and Governance
- 10—Civic Ideals and Practices

**Description:** This is an inquiry lesson where students will do research to answer the inquiry question concerning the end of the Civil War and the Confederate surrender. Students will develop a hypothesis, search for evidence in multiple primary and secondary sources, and complete a graphic organizer. Through this process students will develop a strong answer to the inquiry question posed at the beginning.

**Inquiry Question:** Does Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox effectively end the conflict known as the American Civil War?

**Material:**

- Storyboard
- Primary Source Documents Packet
- Secondary Source Documents Packet
- Discussion Guide
- Highlighters
- Devices with Internet access (the animated map will need to be viewed on [battlefields.org](http://battlefields.org), additionally your students might need access to other online content.)

**Procedure:**

There are ways to scaffold this lesson based on your students' ability and familiarity with research and discussion. Here are three options; use any combination that works best for your class.

Novice	More Experienced	Most Experienced
<p>Provide: Storyboard Discussion Guide Primary Sources Secondary Sources Internet Access</p> <p>As a class read the discussion guide up to Question 1. Discuss how asking more questions can lead to an answer to the inquiry question. Go through the discussion guide completely.</p> <p>Read the primary and secondary sources together. Make notes and highlight while reading the documents - identify answers to certain questions AND identify text that might help answer the inquiry question. As you go through the various sources fill in the Storyboard.</p> <p>At the end, as a class answer the inquiry question. You can show how to answer the question multiple ways, identifying evidence for each answer.</p>	<p>Provide: Storyboard Discussion Guide Primary Sources Secondary Sources Internet Access</p> <p>Students can complete the Storyboard and Discussion Guide independently and/or with some help from the teacher or peers.</p> <p>As a class use the Socratic method as you work through the questions, begin with What Happened? With your students using their Storyboard to walk through the timeline of events.</p> <p>Complete your discussion with the main Inquiry Question. Help students identify evidence to support their answers.</p>	<p>Provide: Storyboard The Inquiry Question Primary Sources Secondary Sources Internet Access</p> <p>Discuss as a group, using the Socratic method. Begin by having students discuss What Happened, using their Storyboard. The teacher can use the questions on the Discussion Guide, but ask more questions and have students present more questions as the conversation moves along.</p> <p>Complete the discussion with the Inquiry Question. Students should have differing answers and evidence to defend their answers.</p>

**Conclusion:**

Students will answer the inquiry question either orally or in essay form. They should use evidence from primary and secondary sources. Some documents have been provided, but students can do additional research to bolster their argument.

**Assessment in this Lesson:**

1. Completed Storyboard
2. Completed Discussion Guide (this can be done orally through discussion)
3. Primary and Secondary sources with highlighting and notes.
4. A complete answer to the inquiry question with document-based evidence



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## Surrender Primary Documents Packet

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To John C. Breckinridge, Secretary of War

Headquarters, Confederate States Armies  
February 24, 1865

Sir:

I regret to be obliged to call your attention to the alarming number of desertions that are now occurring in the army. Since the 12<sup>th</sup> instant they amount to two divisions of Hill's corps, those of Wilcox and Heth, to about four hundred. There are a good many from other commands. The desertions are chiefly from the North Carolina regiments, and especially those from the western part of the State. It seems that the men are influenced very much by the representations of their friends at home, who appear to have become very despondent as to our success. They think the cause desperate and write to the soldiers, advising them to take care of themselves, assuring them that if they will return home the bands of deserters so far outnumber the home guards that they will be in no danger of arrest. I do not know what can be done to prevent this evil, unless some change can be wrought in the state of public sentiment by the influence of prominent citizens of the State. The deserters generally take their arms with them. I shall do all in my power to remedy the evil by a stern enforcement of the law, but that alone will not suffice. I have thought that you might be able to enlist the aid of prominent citizens of North Carolina, who might do something to cheer and stimulate the people. These desertions have a very bad effect upon the troops who remain and give rise to painful apprehension. I submit the matter to your judgment, hoping that you will be able to devise some remedy.

Very respectfully, your obt servt

R.E. Lee  
Genl

Lee, Robert E., Genl. 960 *To John C. Breckinridge*. In *The Wartime Papers of Robert E. Lee*, 910. Richmond, VA: Virginia Civil War Commission, 1961.

# To the People of the Confederate States of America. Danville, Virginia April 4, 1865.

The General in Chief of our Army has found it necessary to make such movements of the troops as to uncover the capital and thus involve the withdrawal of the Government from the city of Richmond.

It would be unwise, even were it possible, to conceal the great moral as well as material injury to our cause that must result from the occupation of Richmond by the enemy. It is equally unwise and unworthy of us, as patriots engaged in a most sacred cause, to allow our energies to falter, our spirits to grow faint, or our efforts to become relaxed under reverses, however calamitous. While it has been to us a source of national pride that for four years of unequalled warfare we have been able, in close proximity to the center of the enemy's power, to maintain the seat of our chosen Government free from the pollution of his presence; while the memories of the heroic dead who have freely given their lives to its defense must ever remain enshrined in our hearts; while the preservation of the capital, which is usually regarded as the evidency to mankind of separate national existence, was an object very dear to us, it is also true, and should not be forgotten, that the loss which we have suffered is not without compensation. For many months the largest and finest army of the Confederacy, under the command of a leader whose presence inspires equal confidence in the troops and the people, has been greatly trammelled by the necessity of keeping constant watch over the approaches to the capital, and has thus been forced to forego more than one opportunity for promising enterprise. The hopes and confidence of the enemy have been constantly excited by the belief that their possession of Richmond would be the signal for our submission to their rule, and relieve them from the burden of war, as their failing resources admonish them it must be abandoned if not speedily brought to a successful close. It is for us, my countrymen, to show by our bearing under reverses how wretched has been the self-deception of those who have believed us less able to endure misfortune with fortitude than to encounter danger with courage. We have now entered upon a new phase of a struggle the memory of which is to endure for all ages and to shed an increasing luster upon our country.

Relieved from the necessity of guarding cities and particular points, important but not vital to our defense, with an army free to move from point to point and strike in detail the detachments and garrisons of the enemy, operating on the interior of our own country, where supplies are more accessible, and where the foe will be far removed from his own base and cut off from all succor in case of reverse, nothing is now needed to render our triumph certain but the exhibition of our own unquenchable resolve. Let us but will it, and we are free; and who, in the light of the past, dare doubt your purpose in the future?

Animated by the confidence in your spirit and fortitude, which never yet has failed me, I announce to you, fellow-countrymen, that it is my purpose to maintain your cause with my whole heart and soul; that I will never consent to abandon to the enemy one foot of the soil of any one of the States of the Confederacy; that Virginia, noble State, whose ancient renown has been eclipsed by her still more glorious recent history, whose bosom has been bared to receive the main shock of this war, whose sons and daughters have exhibited heroism so sublime as to render her illustrious in all times to come - that Virginia, with the help of her people, and by the blessing of Providence, shall be held and defended, and no peace ever be made with the infamous invaders of her homes by the sacrifice of any of her rights or territory. If by stress of numbers we should ever be compelled to a temporary withdrawal from her limits, or those of any other border State, again and again will we return, until the baffled and exhausted enemy shall abandon in despair his endless and impossible task of making slaves of a people resolved to be free.

Let us not, then, despond, my countrymen; but, relying on the never-failing mercies and protecting care of our God, let us meet the foe with fresh defiance, with unconquered and unconquerable hearts.

**Jeff'n Davis.**

Transcribed from *Messages and Papers of the Confederacy*, compiled by James D. Richardson (2 vols., 1904), Volume 1, pp. 568-70.

<https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/archives/documents/people-confederate-states-america>

# To Jefferson Davis Near Appomattox Court House, Virginia April 12, 1865

Mr. President,

It is with pain that I announce to Your Excellency the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. The operations which preceded this result will be reported in full. I will therefore only now state that, upon arriving at Amelia Courthouse on the morning of the 4th with the advance of the army, on the retreat from the lines in front of Richmond and Petersburg, and not finding the supplies ordered to be placed there, nearly twenty-four hours were lost in endeavoring to collect in the country subsistence for men and horses. This delay was fatal, and could not be retrieved. The troops, wearied by continual fighting and marching for several days and nights, obtained neither rest nor refreshment; and on moving, on the 5th, on the Richmond and Danville Railroad, I found at Jetersville the enemy's cavalry, and learned the approach of his infantry and the general advance of his army toward Burkeville. This deprived us of the use of the railroad, and rendered it impracticable to procure from Danville the supplies ordered to meet us at points of our march. Nothing could be obtained from the adjacent country. Our route to the Roanoke was therefore changed, and the march directed upon Farmville, where supplies were ordered from Lynchburg. The change of route threw the troops over the roads pursued by the artillery and wagon trains west of the railroad, which impeded our advance and embarrassed our movements. On the morning of the 6th General Longstreet's corps reached Rice's Station, on the Lynchburg railroad. It was followed by the commands of Generals R. H. Anderson, Ewell, and Gordon, with orders to close upon it as fast as the progress of the trains would permit or as they could be directed on roads farther west. General Anderson, commanding Pickett's and B. R. Johnson's divisions, became disconnected with Mahone's division, forming the rear of Longstreet. The enemy's cavalry penetrated the line of march through the interval thus left and attacked the wagon train moving toward Farmville. This caused serious delay in the march of the center and rear of the column, and enabled the enemy to mass upon their flank. After successive attacks Anderson's and Ewell's corps were captured or driven from their position. The latter general, with both of his division commanders, Kershaw and Custis Lee, and his brigadiers, were taken prisoners. Gordon, who all the morning, aided by General W. H. F. Lee's cavalry, had checked the advance of the enemy on the road from Amelia Springs and protected the trains, became exposed to his combined assaults, which he bravely resisted and twice repulsed; but the cavalry having been withdrawn to another part of the line of march, and the enemy massing heavily on his front and both flanks, renewed the attack about 6 p.m., and drove him from the field in much confusion.

The army continued its march during the night, and every effort was made to reorganize the divisions which had been shattered by the day's operations; but the men being depressed by fatigue and hunger, many threw away their arms, while others followed the wagon trains and

embarrassed their progress. On the morning of the 7th rations were issued to the troops as they passed Farmville, but the safety of the trains requiring their removal upon the approach of the enemy all could not be supplied. The army, reduced to two corps, under Longstreet and Gordon, moved steadily on the road to Appomattox Courthouse; thence its march was ordered by Campbell Courthouse, through Pittsylvania, toward Danville. The roads were wretched and the progress slow. By great efforts the head of the column reached Appomattox Courthouse on the evening of the 8th, and the troops were halted for rest. The march was ordered to be resumed at 1 a.m. on the 9th. Fitz Lee, with the cavalry, supported by Gordon, was ordered to drive the enemy from his front, wheel to the left, and cover the passage of the trains; while Longstreet, who from Rice's Station had formed the rear guard, should close up and hold the position. Two battalions of artillery and the ammunition wagons were directed to accompany the army, the rest of the artillery and wagons to move toward Lynchburg. In the early part of the night the enemy attacked Walker's artillery train near Appomattox Station, on the Lynchburg railroad, and were repelled. Shortly afterward their cavalry dashed toward the Courthouse, till halted by our line.

During the night there were indications of a large force massing on our left and front. Fitz Lee was directed to ascertain its strength, and to suspend his advance till daylight if necessary. About 5 a.m. on the 9th, with Gordon on his left, he moved forward and opened the way. A heavy force of the enemy was discovered opposite Gordon's right, which, moving in the direction of Appomattox Courthouse, drove back the left of the cavalry and threatened to cut off Gordon from Longstreet, his cavalry at the same time threatening to envelop his left flank. Gordon withdrew across the Appomattox River, and the cavalry advanced on the Lynchburg road and became separated from the army.

Learning the condition of affairs on the lines, where I had gone under the expectation of meeting General Grant to learn definitely the terms he proposed in a communication received from him on the 8th, in the event of the surrender of the army, I requested a suspension of hostilities until these terms could be arranged. In the interview which occurred with General Grant in compliance with my request, terms having been agreed on, I surrendered that portion of the Army of Northern Virginia which was on the field, with its arms, artillery, and wagon trains, the officers and men to be paroled, retaining their side arms and private effects. I deemed this course the best under all the circumstances by which we were surrounded.

On the morning of the 9th, according to the reports of the ordnance officers, there were 7,892 organized infantry with arms, with an average of seventy-five rounds of ammunition per man. The artillery, though reduced to sixty-three pieces, with ninety-three rounds of ammunition, was sufficient. These comprised all the supplies of ordnance that could be relied on in the State of Virginia. I have no accurate report of the cavalry, but believe it did not exceed 2,100 effective men. The enemy were more than five times our numbers. If we could have forced our way one day longer it would have been at a great sacrifice of life, and at its end I did not see how a surrender could have been avoided. We had no subsistence for man or horse, and it could not be gathered in the country. The supplies ordered to Pamplin's Station from Lynchburg could not

reach us, and the men, deprived of food and sleep for many days, were worn out and exhausted.

With great respect, yr obdt svt

R.E. Lee  
Genl

Lee, Robert E., Genl. *1005 To Jefferson Davis*. In *The Wartime Papers of Robert E. Lee*, 935-38. Richmond, VA: Virginia Civil War Commission, 1961.

## City Point, April 12, 1865—10 a. m. Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

General Grant, with his staff, arrived here at 5 a. m. to-day. The surrender of Lee's forces was not yet completed, all their company rolls having been lost in their flight, but they would be replaced in a day or two. The number of men surrendered is estimated at 20,000, but may exceed that. Lee himself could only guess how many he had left. The artillery is but about 50 and 400 wagons. Of muskets, not over 10,000 will be surrendered, about half of Lee's men having lost or thrown away their muskets on the road. They were also out of food and called for rations as soon as the surrender was agreed upon. General Grant had a long private interview with Lee, who said that he should devote his whole efforts to pacifying the country and bringing the people back to the Union. He had always been for the Union in his heart and could find no justification for the politicians who had brought on the war, whose origin he believed to have been in the folly of extremists on both sides. If General Grant had agreed to the interview he had asked for some time ago they would certainly have agreed on terms of peace then, as he was prepared to treat for the surrender of all the Confederate armies. The war had left him a poor man, with nothing but what he had upon his person, and his wife would have to provide for herself until he could find some employment. The officers of Lee's army all seemed to be glad that it was over, and the men still more so than the officers. All were greatly impressed by the generosity of the terms finally given them, for at the time of the surrender they were surrounded and escape was impossible. General Grant thinks that these terms were of great importance toward securing a thorough peace and undisturbed submission to the Government. After the surrender Rosser and Fitzhugh Lee escaped. Lee told General Grant that his loss in killed and wounded had been very heavy. General Grant estimates his own total loss in the campaign at 10,000 killed, wounded, and missing. Of prominent officers, Brigadier-General Bead is the only one of ours killed since the pursuit began. Lee surrendered some 12,000 animals, all in very poor condition. As an additional favor General Grant has allowed all private soldiers of Lee's who owned their horses to take them home. Lee says we can march without difficulty anywhere through the South, and it may be necessary, but he hopes not. Johnston, he thinks, has not now more than from 5,000 to 10,000 efficient men. He has sent to Johnston advising him to give up. Where Jeff. Davis is he does not know, but thinks he may be in Danville. Breckinridge started for Lynchburg, since which he has not been heard of. Benjamin and Trenholm are supposed to be with Jeff. Davis, who is also thought to have with him the specie taken from Richmond. The whereabouts of Extra Billy is unknown.

C. A. DANA, Assistant Secretary of War.

The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. Ser. I, Vol. 46, pt. 3, Section 1, p. 716-17.

[http://collections.library.cornell.edu/moa\\_new/waro.html](http://collections.library.cornell.edu/moa_new/waro.html)

## Near Greensboro Ala. April 19th, 1865

Dear wife

I have just got up from my hard bed and hardly have my eyes open, but I learn that some one will start for N. Ala. this morning, and altho I sent you one two days since by Ike Goodloe I am so home sick and love you so well Can't refrain from troubling you with a few lines. Our regiment will remain here for a few days since and we may go up towards Tuscaloosa again or somewhere else, as we don't remain long in one place. The 4th & [illegible] left yesterday for Ga. and Pattersons and Stewarts Bat. Started for Danville N. Ala. last week. Some think that we will go up before a great while, but I am inclined to think otherwise as it would be impossible for us to subsist. Darling Wife I am so anxious to see you – feel that I could clasp you in my arms & keep you there forever. When will this dreadful war terminate? I hope soon for I am growing so sick of it especially as we are having reverses on every hand and have no encouragement in the world. We heard a day or two since of the fall of Mobile with the loss of 3000 prisoners and a large lot of Cotton & Government stores. I can't see what will become of our Eastern troops when all of this grain growing country is permanently in the enemys lines. I have not heard anything further from Johnie, in my letter said that Coln. Wisdom and 300 or 400 men had made their escape from the enemy, but it turned out to be only a few officers, among them no Col. W. Joe Paterson &c. I hope that many of them may yet get away as they will have a good distance to travel before they can get them in a safe place, unless they hear of the fall of Mobile and take them then. When Mr. Hancock left yesterday – asked me to keep John – have Johnies clothing and will try and take care of them and in the event I run entirely out will examine his wardrobe. I would give anything in the world to be with you and the

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children this morning. The fact is darling I can hardly refrain from running right off and going to you. How is my little Boy getting on? I would not know him from any other child were I to see him away from your arms. I hope my little girls are quite well and are improving everyday, and that we may be permitted to see them grow up and the smartest and best women of the country. God Bless our little ones – I feel for them and fear they may have troubles and trials more than we ever had.

You must take might good care of them my Darling one but its no use telling you this for you are the best wife and mother in the world and I ought to warn you not to task your own dear self too much. Try and take good care of yourself dear, and let me see you looking well when we meet, in spite of the troubles you endure. Remember me with much love to all, and may God Bless you my dear wife and my dear little children. Haven't time to write any more. Try and send me a letter in some way, and if possible my little image, your picture.

Your Affectionate Husband

R.E. Corry

Robert Emmet Corry to Eliza Harris Corry. April 19, 1865. Accessed March 28, 2019.  
<http://content.lib.auburn.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/civil2/id/26692/rec/2>.

# Robert E. Lee to Jefferson Davis

## April 20th, 1865

Robert E. Lee  
to  
Jefferson Davis

Richmond, Virginia  
April 20, 1865

Mr. President

The apprehensions I expressed during the winter, of the moral [sic] condition of the Army of Northern Virginia, have been realized. The operations which occurred while the troops were in the entrenchments in front of Richmond and Petersburg were not marked by the boldness and decision which formerly characterized them. Except in particular instances, they were feeble; and a want of confidence seemed to possess officers and men. This condition, I think, was produced by the state of feeling in the country, and the communications received by the men from their homes, urging their return and the abandonment of the field. The movement of the enemy on the 30th March to Dinwiddie Court House was consequently not as strongly met as similar ones had been. Advantages were gained by him which discouraged the troops, so that on the morning of the 2d April, when our lines between the Appomattox and Hatcher's Run were assaulted, the resistance was not effectual: several points were penetrated and large captures made. At the commencement of the withdrawal of the army from the lines on the night of the 2d, it began to disintegrate, and straggling from the ranks increased up to the surrender on the 9th. On that day, as previously reported, there were only seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-two (7892) effective infantry. During the night, when the surrender became known, more than ten thousand men came in, as reported to me by the Chief Commissary of the Army. During the succeeding days stragglers continued to give themselves up, so that on the 12th April, according to the rolls of those paroled, twenty-six thousand and eighteen (26,018) officers and men had surrendered. Men who had left the ranks on the march, and crossed James River, returned and gave themselves up, and many have since come to Richmond and surrendered. I have given these details that Your Excellency might know the state of feeling which existed in the army, and judge of that in the country. From what I have seen and learned, I believe an army cannot be organized or supported in Virginia, and as far as I know the condition of affairs, the country east of the Mississippi is morally and physically unable to maintain the contest unaided with any hope of ultimate success. A partisan war may be continued, and hostilities protracted, causing individual suffering and the devastation of the country, but I see no prospect by that means of achieving a separate independence. It is for Your Excellency to decide, should you agree with me in opinion, what is proper to be done. To save useless effusion of blood, I would recommend measures be taken for suspension of hostilities and the restoration of peace.

I am with great respect, yr obdt svt  
R. E. Lee  
Genl

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/robert-e-lee-jefferson-davis-april-20th-1865>

# To Varina Howell Davis

## Charlotte, N.C

### 23 April 65

MY DEAR WINNIE

I have been detained here longer than was expected when the last telegram was sent to you. I am uncertain where you are and deeply felt the necessity of being with you if even for a brief time, under our altered circumstances. Gov. Vance and Genl. Hampton propose to meet me here and Genl. Johnston sent me a request to remain at some point where he could readily communicate with me. Under these circumstances I have asked Mr. Harrison to go in search of you and to render you such assistance as he may. Your Brother William telegraphed in reply to my inquiry that you were at Abbeville and that he would go to see you. My last despatch was sent to that place and to the care of Mr. Burt. Your own feelings will convey to you an idea of my solicitude for you and our family and I will not distress by describing it.

The dispersion of Lee's army and the surrender of the remnant which remained with him destroyed the hopes I entertained when we parted. Had that army held together I am now confident we could have successfully executed the plan which I sketched to you and would have been to-day on the high road to independence. Even after that disaster if the men who "straggled" say thirty or forty thousand in number, had come back with their arms and with a disposition to fight we might have repaired the damage; but all was sadly the reverse of that. They threw away theirs and were uncontrollably resolved to go home. The small guards along the road have sometimes been unable to prevent the pillage of trains and depots.

Panic has seized the country. J. E. Johnston and Beauregard were hopeless as to recruiting their forces from the dispersed men of Lee's army and equally so as to their ability to check Sherman with the forces they had. Their only idea was to retreat of the power to do so they were doubtful and subsequent desertions from their troops have materially diminished their strength and I learn still more weakend their confidence.

The loss of arms has been so great that should the spirit of the people rise to the occasion it would not be at this time possible adequately to supply them with the weapons of War.

Genl. Johnston had several interviews with Sherman and agreed on a suspension of hostilities, and the reference of terms of pacification. They are secret and may be rejected by the Yankee govt.- to us they are hard enough, though freed from wanton humiliation and expressly recognizing the state governments, and the rights of person and property as secured by the Constitutions of the U. S. and the several states. Genl. Breckenridge was a party to the last consultation and to the agreement. Judge Reagan went with him and approved the agreement though not present at the conference.

Each member of the Cabinet is to give his opinion in writing to day, 1st upon the acceptance of the terms, 2d upon the mode of proceeding if accepted. The issue is one which it is very painful for me to meet. On one hand is the long night of oppression which will follow the return of our people to the 'Union'; on the other the suffering of the women and children, and courage among the few brave patriots who would still oppose the invader, and /who/ unless the people would rise en masse to sustain them, would struggle but to die in vain.

I think my judgement is undisturbed by any pride of opinion or of place, I have prayed to our heavenly Father to give me wisdom and fortitude equal to the demands of the position in which Providence has placed me. I have sacrificed so much for the cause of the Confederacy that I can measure my ability to make any further sacrifice required, and am assured there is but one to which I am not equal, my Wife and my Children. How are they to be saved from degradation or want is now my care. During the suspension of hostilities you may have the best opportunity to go to Missi. and thence either to sail from Mobile for a foreign port or to cross the river and proceed to Texas, as the one or the other may be more practicable. The little sterling you have will be a very scanty store and under other circumstances would not be counted, but if our land can be sold that will secure you from absolute want. For myself it may be that our Enemy will prefer to banish me, it may be that a devoted band of Cavalry will cling to me and that I can force my way across the Missi. and if nothing can be done there which it will be proper to do, then I can go to Mexico and have the world from which to choose a location. Dear Wife this is not the fate to which I invited when the future was rose-colored to us both; but I know you will bear it even better than myself and that /of us two/ I alone will ever look back reproachfully on my past career.

I have thus entered on the questions involved in the future to guard against contingencies, my stay will not be prolonged a day beyond the prospect of useful labor here and there is every reason to suppose that I will be with you a few days after Mr. Harrison arrives

Mrs Omelia behaved very strangely about putting the things you directed -- Robt says she would not permit to pack, that she even took groceries out of the mess chest when he had put a small quantity there. Little Maggie's saddle was concealed and I learned after we left Richmond was not with the saddles and bridles which I directed to be all put together. At the same time I was informed that your saddle had been sent to the Saddlers and left there. Every body seemed afraid of connexion with our property and your carriage was sent to the Depot to be brought with me. a plea was made that it could not go on the cars of that train but should follow in the next, specific charge and promise was given but the carriage was left. The notice to leave was given on Sunday, but few hours were allowed and my public duties compelled to rely on others, count on nothing as saved which you valued except the bust and that had to be left behind.

Mrs. Omelia said she was charged in the event of our having to leave, to place the valuables with the Sisters and that she would distribute every thing. I told her to sell what she could, and after feeling distrust asked Mrs. Grant to observe her; and after that became convinced that she too proba-~~bly under the influences of her husband was afraid to be known as having close~~

~~relations with us~~ Kiss Maggie and the children many times for me. The only yearning heart in the final hour was poor old Sara wishing for "Pie cake", and thus I left our late home. No bad preparation for a search of another. Dear children I can say nothing to them, but for you and them my heart is full my prayers constant and my hopes are the trust I feel in the mercy of God. Farewell my Dear; there may be better things in store for us than are now in view, but my love is all I have to offer and that has the value of a thing long possessed and sure not to be lost. Once more, and with God's favor for a short time only, farewell --

YOUR HUSBAND.

Jefferson Davis to Varina Howell Davis. April 23, 1865. Accessed March 28, 2019.  
<https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/archives/documents/varina-howell-davis>.

# Newspapers

- *The daily Gate City*. (Keokuk, Iowa), 11 April 1865. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025182/1865-04-11/ed-1/seq-1/>>
- *The Anderson intelligencer*. (Anderson Court House, S.C.), 27 April 1865. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026965/1865-04-27/ed-1/seq-1/>>



## Surrender Secondary Resources Packet

### The Entire Civil War Animated Map

Watch Minute 21:12 to 24:40

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/entire-civil-war-animated-map>

Watch the Appomattox Campaign video

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/appomattox-campaign>

Watch Appomattox: The Surrender video

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/videos/appomattox-surrender>

# This Day in the Civil War Timeline

## April 1865

### April 1 - Battle of Five Forks, Virginia

April 2 - Confederate Government evacuates Richmond, Virginia

April 2 - Selma, Alabama assailed and captured

### April 2 - Confederate lines at Petersburg breached and Fort Gregg stormed

April 3 - Richmond and Petersburg occupied by Federals

April 4 - Lincoln visits Richmond, Virginia

### April 6 - Battle of Sayler's Creek (Sailor's Creek), Virginia

### April 7 - Engagement at High Bridge, Virginia

April 7 - Engagement at Cumberland Church, Virginia

April 8 - Siege of Spanish Fort, Alabama concludes

### April 9 - Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House

April 12 - Mobile, Alabama surrenders

April 13 - Skirmish at Raleigh, North Carolina

April 14 - United States flag raised over Fort Sumter, South Carolina

### April 14 - Abraham Lincoln is shot at Ford's Theatre

April 15 - Abraham Lincoln dies. Andrew Johnson sworn in as President of the United States

April 16 - Capture of Columbus and West Point, Georgia

April 18 - Sherman and J. Johnston sign armistice at Durham Station, North Carolina

April 26 - General Joseph Johnston surrenders to General William T. Sherman at Durham Station, North Carolina

### April 26 - John Wilkes Booth captured and killed in the Garrett Barn, Port Royal, Virginia

April 27 - Explosion of the riverboat *Sultana*

April 28 - Skirmishes at Princeton, Arkansas on Steele's Camden Expedition

## May 1865

May 2 - A \$100,000 reward offered for the arrest of Jefferson Davis

May 4 - Surrender of Confederate General Richard Taylor's forces at Citronelle, Alabama

May 10 - Confederate President Jefferson Davis captured by U.S. troops at Irwinville, Georgia

### May 12 - Skirmish at Palmito Ranch, Texas - the last engagement of the Civil War

May 23 to 24 - Grand Review of Union armies in Washington, D.C.

May 26 - Surrender of Confederate General E.K. Smith's Trans-Mississippi forces, New Orleans, Louisiana

May 29 - President Andrew Johnson proclaims amnesty for most ex-Confederates

## June 1865

June 23 - General Stand Watie surrenders Confederate forces in the Indian Territory (OK)

June 30 - Eight Lincoln-assassination conspirators convicted in Washington, D.C.

## July 1865

July 7 - Conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln are executed

## November 1865

### November 10 - War criminal Henry Wirz hanged

## December 1865

December 18 - The Thirteenth Amendment, abolish slavery, becomes a part of the U.S. Constitution

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/day-civil-war>

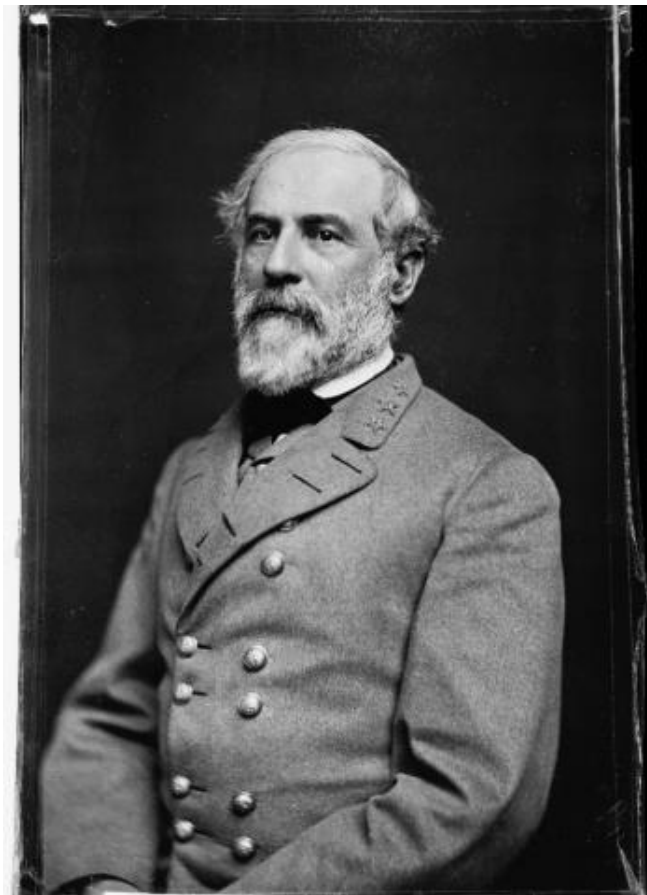
## 10 Facts: Appomattox Court House

April 9, 1865

*How much do you know about the final days of the war in Virginia? Here are some facts about the battle and the surrender to help shed a little light for newcomers and test the knowledge of veterans.*

**Fact #1: Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant following a battle earlier that morning.**

The surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia – the most celebrated Confederate army – followed a defeat in the final battle of the war in Virginia. The Battle of Appomattox Court House was the climax of a campaign that began eleven days earlier at the [Battle of Lewis' Farm](#).



Robert E. Lee  
*Library of Congress*

**Fact #2: In just over one week before the battle at Appomattox Court House, Lee had lost more than half of his army.**

During the Siege of Petersburg from June 1864 - April 1865 Lee had about 60,000 men under his command to oppose more than 100,000 Union troops. On April 1, a Union victory at the Battle of Five Forks made it possible for Grant's forces to wrap around Petersburg, leaving Lee's entrenchments vulnerable. When Federals broke through Confederate defenses at Petersburg the next day, Lee was forced to evacuate.

Thousands of soldiers were captured at the battles of Five Forks, the Petersburg Breakthrough, and especially Sailor's Creek – where about a quarter of the army surrendered after being cut off from Lee. Grant's forces harried the Rebels constantly as they continued to retreat west along their tenuous supply lines. Desertion was rampant among the starving and beleaguered soldiers, and Confederates took heavy casualties at several battles.

**Fact #3: At Appomattox Court House, Lee made his final attempt to escape Grant's reach.**



Gen. Charles Griffin  
*Library of Congress*

Heavily outnumbered and low on supplies, Lee's situation was dire in April 1865. Nevertheless, Lee led a series of grueling night marches, hoping to reach supplies in Farmville and eventually join Maj. Gen. [Joseph E. Johnston](#)'s army in North Carolina.

On April 8, the Confederates discovered that the army's escape was blocked by Federal cavalry. The Confederate commanders decided to try to break through the cavalry screen, in the hope that the horsemen were unsupported by other troops. Grant anticipated Lee's attempts to escape, however, and ordered two corps (XXIV and V) under the commands of Maj. Gen. [John Gibbon](#) and Bvt. Maj. Gen. Charles Griffin to march all night to reinforce the Union cavalry and cut off Lee's escape.

At dawn on April 9, the remnants of Maj. Gen. [John Brown Gordon](#)'s Corps and Maj. Gen. [Fitzhugh Lee](#)'s cavalry drove off the Federal cavalymen. Upon capturing the ridge that the Yankees had defended the Confederates realized that they had been gravely mistaken: Gibbon and Griffin's corps had completed their night marches, and promptly drove back the weary Rebels.

**Fact #4: Lee decided to surrender his army in part because he wanted to prevent unnecessary destruction to the South.**

When it became clear to the Confederates that they were stretched too thinly to break through the Union lines, Lee observed that "there is nothing left me to do but to go and see Gen. Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." Not all his subordinates agreed with him; one such officer, Brig. Gen. [Edward Porter Alexander](#), suggested that Lee disperse the army and tell the men to regroup with Johnston's army or return to their states to continue fighting. Lee rejected the idea, explaining that "if I took your advice, the men would be without rations and under no control of officers. They would be compelled to rob and steal in order to live. They would become mere bands of marauders.... We would bring on a state of affairs it would take the country years to recover from."

**Fact #5: Grant agreed to parole the entire Army of Northern Virginia rather than take them as prisoners.**

At around 1:30 in the afternoon on April 9, Lee and Grant met at the McLean House in the village with a group of officers. The Union general granted Lee favorable terms of surrender: allowing the men to return to their homes and letting the officers, cavalymen, and artillerymen keep their swords and horses if the men agreed to lay down their arms and abide by federal law. Grant even supplied food to the Rebels, who were desperately low on rations.

Grant's leniency – together with Lee's reluctance to risk a guerrilla war – can be partially credited for the relative peacefulness of the Reconstruction.

**Fact #6: The surrender terms were drafted by a Native American.**

The official copies of the surrender terms signed by Lee and Grant were drafted by Grant's personal military secretary, Lt. Col. Ely S. Parker. Parker was a Seneca Indian Chief from New York who had studied law. He became friends with Grant after the Mexican-American War, and Grant secured an officer's commission for him. He accompanied Grant to the McLean house on April 9 and witnessed the surrender. Parker would eventually rise to the rank of brigadier general.

**Fact #7: Wilmer McLean moved to Appomattox Court House to avoid the war.**

In summer 1861, Wilmer McLean and his family lived in Manassas, Virginia. His house was on the outskirts of the battlefield, and was used as Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard's headquarters. After the battle, McLean began selling sugar to the Confederate Army, and moved to Appomattox Court House where he believed he would be able to avoid the fighting and the Union occupation, which impeded his work. After the war, McLean would famously observe that "The war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor."

**Fact #8: Union troops saluted their former enemies at the surrender ceremony.**

The surrender was a highly emotional affair for the participants, many of whom had been fighting for four years. Soldiers on both sides cheered and cried – often at the same time – upon hearing the news.

The formal ceremony and collection of weapons took place on April 12 under the supervision of Brig. Gen. [Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain](#). As ranks of Confederate soldiers came forward to hand over their weapons and flags, Chamberlain ordered his men to salute their defeated adversaries as a gesture of respect. Other witnesses also reported that interactions between Yankees and Rebels were almost entirely kind and friendly.

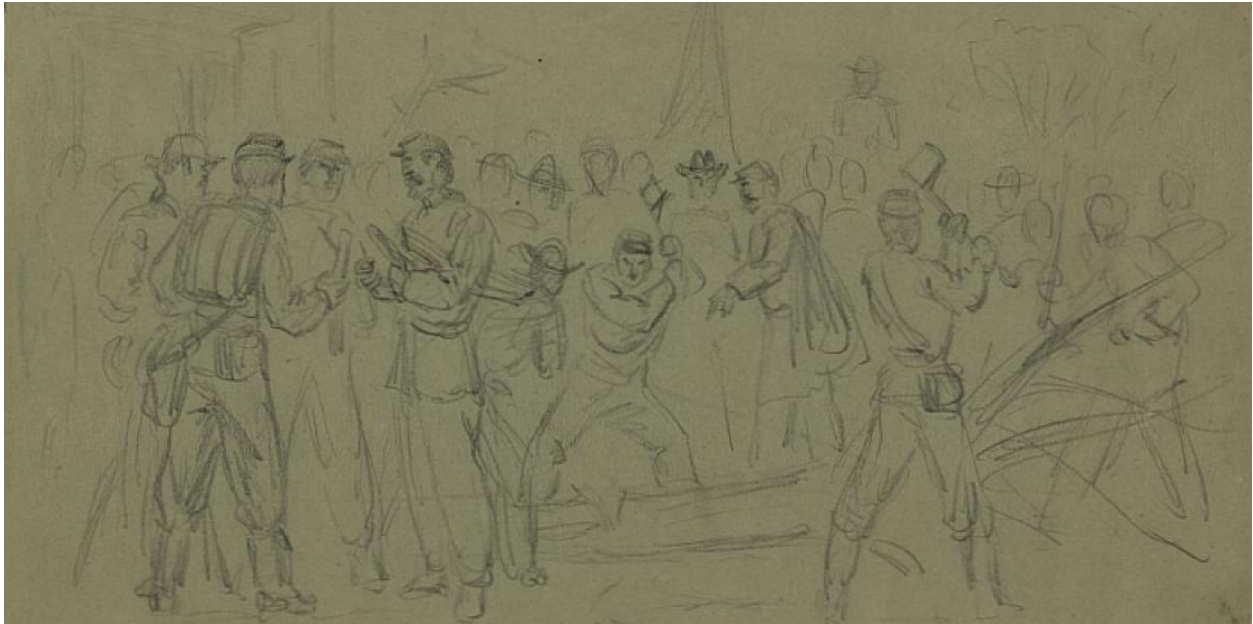
**Fact #9: The surrender agreement at Appomattox did not end the war.**

After Lee's surrender, the Army of Tennessee remained in the field for over two weeks, until Johnston finally surrendered the army and numerous smaller garrisons to Maj. Gen. [William T. Sherman](#) on April 26. Johnston's surrender was the largest of the war, totaling almost 90,000 men.

The final battle of the Civil War took place at [Palmito Ranch](#) in Texas on May 11-12. The last large Confederate military force was surrendered on June 2 by Gen. [Edmund Kirby Smith](#) in Galveston, Texas, and the broken country began to pick up the pieces from years of fighting.

**Fact #10: After the surrender, many already historic artifacts were taken or destroyed by soldiers seeking souvenirs.**

After Lee left the McLean House on April 9, some of the Union officers present promptly bought much of the furniture in McLean's parlor. The phenomenon was not limited to the upper echelons – soldiers of all ranks from both armies tried to take a piece of their experience home with them. Northerners bought Confederate dollars from the Rebels, and soldiers tore up their own regimental flags as souvenirs.



After hearing an unfounded rumor that Lee met Grant under a tree to surrender, soldiers hacked apart the entire tree for souvenirs.

*Library of Congress*

Since the nineteenth century, a more concerted effort has been made to preserve the history of Appomattox Court House for everyone to experience. The Appomattox Court House National Historic Park was created in 1940, and encompasses about 1,700 acres, including some of the battlefield land, the Court House, Lee's headquarters, and a reconstructed McLean House (still missing much of its original furniture, which is scattered across the country). The American Battlefield Trust has preserved additional acreage which includes ground used during Griffin's counterattack and land where Bvt. Maj. Gen. George Armstrong Custer's cavalry division checked an advance down the LeGrand road by members of Brig. Gen. Martin Gary's Confederate cavalry brigade.

**Bonus facts:**

- Maj. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee was Robert E. Lee's nephew, and participated in his uncle's final council of war on April 8 with Generals Longstreet and Gordon.
- Robert E. Lee's son, Maj. Gen. William Henry Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee, also participated in the battle, commanding a cavalry division in the battle under the leadership of his cousin Fitzhugh.
- Lee's family was almost certainly on his mind as he considered surrender; both his oldest son (Maj. Gen. George Washington Custis Lee) and his youngest son (Capt. Robert E. Lee, jr.) were missing in action. As it turned out, Custis was captured at Sailor's creek, and Robert had been cut off from the army and eventually surrendered after hearing news of Appomattox.
- Ever one to overestimate his importance, when a Confederate envoy asked him for a truce while the surrender was arranged, Custer instead demanded Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's unconditional surrender. Fortunately, Gen. Sheridan (Custer's commanding officer) arranged for the ceasefire anyway.
- Confederate President Jefferson Davis was disappointed by Lee's surrender, but he was truly bitter that Johnston gave up virtually all remaining Confederate troops in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida without being decisively beaten by Sherman's army. Davis called the surrender "something unparalleled, without good reason or authority."
- The McLean House was dismantled in 1893 in an attempt to move it to Washington, D.C. as a Civil War museum. Chicago. It was never relocated, and was eventually reconstructed in the 1940s.

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-appomattox-court-house>



## Discussion Guide

**Inquiry Question:** Does Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox effectively end the conflict known as the American Civil War?

Your Hypothesis:

We are trying to answer the inquiry question, but what questions could we ask along that way that will help us prepare for this big question? Maybe there are some simple ones to ask that appear within the Inquiry Question. We can also remember to consider, what are we assuming our readers know with this question?

Below are questions that can help, but create and write down more questions you develop while doing your research and having discussion.

As you go through your sources, label the questions with the source(s) that helps you answer the question and highlight and label that info within the text of the source (if possible). There can be multiple sources that help answer each question.

1. What Happened? Answer this by completing the Storyboard.
2. Who is "Lee" and why is this person important?
3. What does surrender mean? What are the terms of Lee's surrender?
4. What is happening before Lee's surrender?

5. What happens after Lee's surrender?
6. Why Appomattox? (make sure you include where it is located)
7. What does Jefferson Davis think about Lee's surrender? Does he consider it the end of the war?
8. Why did Lee feel as though he must surrender?
9. What is the public reaction to Lee's surrender –
  - a. In the North
  - b. In the South
10. What evidence do you find about the condition and moral of Confederate soldiers as the war is coming to the end?

Complete the inquiry question: Does Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox effectively end the conflict known as the American Civil War?

Your answer (a short, one sentence version):

Find three quotes from documents (at least one quote needs to be from a primary source document) that support your answer:

Document Title:  Quote:   How does this support your answer?
Document Title:  Quote:   How does this support your answer?
Document Title:  Quote:   How does this support your answer?

## Storyboard-1

Name:

You have been given a setting and outcome, complete the remaining squares by labeling each 'chapter' with a title, dates, and details.

<p>Setting:</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln has been reelected by the American public with the promise that he will continue to fight the rebellion.</p> <p>Petersburg is about to fall, Richmond's last line of defense and a major train depot, supplying Richmond.</p> <p>On the western front of the war, Sherman continues to regain control of major cities and divide-up the land so that supplies cannot be made or moved.</p>		
		<p>Outcome:</p> <p>The last surrender of Confederate troops is in June, 1865.</p> <p>President Andrew Johnson will official end the conflict on August 20, 1866</p> <p>The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery passes.</p> <p>The period known as Reconstruction begins.</p>

NAME:

Fill-in parts of the historical narrative in the boxes below. Reference primary and secondary source materials within the appropriate boxes, cite your source with the document title in parenthesis.

Setting: April 2

After months of siege at Petersburg, VA, the last line of defense to the Confederate capital of Richmond, VA it becomes evident that the Union will soon break through. Confederate Government officials including President Jefferson Davis evacuate Richmond to avoid capture.

April 2-4

Petersburg fall and Union troops easily enter Richmond, VA. Lincoln visits Richmond. Lee is attempting to connect with his supply train all the while his men are deserting. Grant and his cavalry are in pursuit of Lee and his forces, which they now have surrounded.

April 9

Lee surrounded, out-numbered, with low morale and no chance of acquiring his supplies, he surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, VA.

April 12-15

Southern cities on the western front continue to fall to Union forces. The Union flag is once again raised at Fort Sumter, SC.

Abraham Lincoln is assassinated and Andrew Johnson is sworn in as president of the United States.

April 18

US General William T. Sherman and CSA General Joseph Johnston sign an armistice in Durham Station, NC.

Outcome – May – December 1865

Throughout May and June Confederate surrenders continue to quick succession until there are no more organized Confederate forces.

Lincoln's assassin and his accomplices have been brought to justice.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution has been passed by the US Congress, outlawing slavery in the US.

The period of Reconstruction begins.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Essay

Does Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox effectively end the conflict known as the American Civil War?

**Be sure to:**

- Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s),
- Establish the significance of the claim(s) with evidence – using quotes from primary and secondary source material
- Create an organization that logically sequences the claim(s)
- Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, and between reasons and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from or supports the argument presented.