When we read about Civil War battles, there is the tendency to forget the human side of the battle. What was it like to fight in a Civil War battle? What did you see and hear? What did you feel? Could you smell or taste anything?

You may need to guide the students through this exercise as well as add your own suggestions, especially for “taste”. [Soldiers might be able to taste sweat, blood, grime or smoke, for example.]

A few suggestions are provided:

**Sight:**
- Setting of evening sun; darkness
- Flashes of light
- Blood on self and others
- Stacks of dead and wounded men
- Smoke
- Horrible wounds; horrible violence

**Touch:**
- Wounds/ pain
- Cold in evening; freezing at night
- Sticky blood
- Grime

**Smell:**
- Gunpowder
- Smoke
- Blood

**Sound:**
- Artillery & musket fire (crashing”, “booming”, “popping”, etc.)
- Artillery and musket projectiles (“whizzing”, “whistling”, thuds, splintering, etc.)
- Screaming
- Battle cries
- Moaning
- Officers’ orders

**Taste:**
- Blood
- Sweat
- Grime
- Smoke