



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 written report, web site, or PowerPoint presentation. By providing options for the final submission, the unique needs of students with different learning styles can be met.

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## Collaborative Learning (Group) Assignment: Key Battles of WWII

### Objectives:

- History students, using the textbook, library, or Internet, will be able to answer a series of questions related to a particular element of a key World War II battle.
- History students, working in groups, will be able to synthesize each member's contribution and create a written report, web site, or PowerPoint presentation about a key World War II battle.

**Points possible:** 30 per group, 20 per individual (10 of which will be for participation). Total of 50.

**Due date:** April 18 at 11:55 p.m. (Pacific time).

### 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 discussion board. This is where you will do most of your work. Nobody from outside of your group, except me, can access your topic.

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, and post it into your group discussion board to share with the others in your group. You should first write your posting in a word processing program like Microsoft Word. That way, you can spell-check, grammar-check and save your work to your computer. Then you can copy the text and paste it into Blackboard.

Try to get this part done in five days.

5. Go into your group discussion board, and check out the answers others have posted. If you think someone has missed any questions, gently bring it to his or her attention.
6. While in your group discussion board, decide as a group how you will present the final project. Will you present it as a written report, as a web site, or as a PowerPoint presentation? (You might want to decide this at the beginning of the assignment.) Decide who in your group will take the lead on this and who will do what in bringing the final submission together.
7. Your final 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 or PowerPoint presentation, include appropriate pictures, graphs, charts, sounds, or any other multimedia elements to make your points.

Try to have this part done 2-3 days prior to the deadline for this assignment.

8. **What to submit, and where to submit it.**

**Individual 1-2 page paper.** Upload this paper by going to the "Individual paper" link and using the Browse for Local File button. The paper will be worth 10 points, and it will be assessed according to the rubrics established at the beginning of semester.

**Participation assessment.** In a **private e-mail** submitted to me, grade 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? How much did you help in putting the final submission together?, etc. Type a comment or two next to your score. In

the same e-mail, name the other members of your group, and assess them in the same manner as you assessed yourself.

I will take these scores and comments into account when giving you your final individual score for this assignment. The participation part will count for the other 10 points of your individual score.

Before sending your private e-mail to me, be sure to put your group name (the battle) into the subject line with the word "assessment" following it. For example, "Battle of the Bulge assessment".

**Group submission.** If your final group submission is a written report, post it in the **main class Discussion Board (not in your group discussion board)** in the forum called "WWII battles". Create a new thread, and for your subject, type the name of your battle. If your submission is a web site or PowerPoint presentation, post it as a link or attachment in the **Discussion Board**.

Your final group submission will be assessed according to the rubrics established at the beginning of semester. There are 30 points possible, and all group members will receive the same grade. If you want to see an example of an exemplary group submission, click **Model Assignments**.

9. When the final group submissions are all in, study them all because you will be responsible for the information they contain. You might want to download them to your own computer when possible.