

Student 3: Low Merit
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

Research proposal:

I have chosen to do my research inquiry on the battle of the Somme. I chose this topic because I think that it was a significant event in world War One and helped to define New Zealand as a country following the war. I also chose this topic because it was something that I had no prior knowledge of but became intrigued after reading the quote, "Somme. The whole history of the world cannot contain a more gruesome word". During my research I want to find out things like; what led up to the battle of the Somme, what happened during the battle of the Somme, what the experiences were like for both sides during the battle of the Somme, and also how the battle of the Somme impacted on New Zealanders. I have chosen these questions to direct my line of research because I think that they will give me a comprehensive understanding to a range of aspects of the Battle of the Somme. I think that these questions are broad enough that there will be a wide range of sources including both primary and secondary sources but at the same time they are also specific enough that the information I collect will be able to answer these questions with sufficient detail. Another reason why I chose to do my research project on the battle of the Somme is because...

Focusing questions:

1. What was the background to the battle of the Somme?
2. What happened at the Battle of the Somme?
3. What conditions did soldiers experience at the Battle of the Somme?
4. How did the Battle of the Somme define New Zealanders?

Examples of identifying possible sources:

One potential source that I would expect to find helpful information would be www.wikipedia.com. I would expect to find a variety of information including background to the battle of the Somme and also what happened during the battle. However I am also going to be cautious about using information from this website as it can sometimes be unreliable.

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Another potential source that I would expect to find helpful information from would be www.nzhistory.co.nz. I would expect to find information relating to New Zealand's involvement with the battle of the Somme and how the Battle of the Somme impacted on New Zealanders as it is a New Zealand-based history website aimed at New Zealanders. This could be helpful for answering my fourth focus question.

Examples of annotations:

<p>This secondary source is also helpful for answering my focus question because it gives specific information on what this battle is a result of (the attack on the French city Verdun). It has given me an event which I can now research and hopefully gain a further understanding about why the Battle of</p>	<p>This secondary source is also useful in answering my focus question because it contains information about what type of conflict there was prior to this battle and what the responses were because of that conflict. This source is based on facts and less speculation which means that it is more</p>
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the Somme took place. This source is less fact based and involved a certain degree of speculation however it has given useful information about the background to this battle. It is a less credible secondary source because it comes from a website called www.ask.com which is a website where any members can sign on and answer questions.

credible and more helpful. This source comes from a reliable website because it is owned by a corporation called technological solutions inc. and it was last updated at the beginning of March 2014 which means that all the information is not out-of-date. The website also includes information on how to cite the article that you are using which is very helpful.

Evaluation:

During my research inquiry I had many successes and difficulties that impacted on how well I was able to collect information that will enable me to answer my focus question. One of the successes I had during my research inquiry was that I think I had a wide range of different types of sources. I included things like pictures, articles, maps, quotes, poems, and book sources. I think that this is a success because it means that my information comes from a wide range of sources which is a good thing because it means that the same information can be analysed in many different ways like visually or from a first-hand account. One of the difficulties I had when carrying out my research inquiry was finding an equal balance of primary and secondary sources. For questions one and two the majority of my sources are secondary which could not necessarily be a good thing, especially if it is just someone's interpretation of an event many years after it has happened.

Throughout my research inquiry my line of research changed as new evidence was accumulated. This occurred predominantly with questions three and four. As question three was all about what the experiences were like at the Somme most of the information I collected was about the conditions in the trenches and how this affected the soldiers. My fourth focus question was directed at how the Battle of the Somme impacted on New Zealanders and as a result most of the information that I found was all about the conditions in the trenches and the information was very similar to question three. This led me to change the wording of my fourth focus question on numerous accounts to "how did the battle of the Somme define New Zealand as a country?"

Issues that I would need to consider for future inquiries would be making sure that my focus questions are all different and broad enough that there are numerous sources readily available that cover a wide range of information. As I discovered when answering my fourth focusing question there seemed to be little range of web sites that had information on New Zealanders at the Somme. The majority of web sites that had information about New Zealanders in World War One seemed to focus on Gallipoli. Whereas web sites that had information on what the soldiers experienced at the Somme seemed to focus only on the British, French and German soldiers. In the future I would broaden out my line of research to simply include ANZACs instead of just New Zealanders because there seemed to be a lot more web sites about ANZACs fighting at the Somme...