



NAME

PERIOD

DATE

Activity Sheet 11

Project Planning

Directions: You have read stories of World War II Veterans and service members that answered the question “Why did I serve?” Your next task is to research a World War II Veteran or service member who is buried in a National Cemetery or State, Territory, or Tribal Veterans Cemetery and tell their story to the best of your ability. There are many ways to conduct your research and guides to some research resources are provided below.

After conducting your research, you may submit your finished project in the form of a written report or eulogy, a poem or song, or a mini-documentary or mini-podcast that focuses on some important aspect of your subject’s service. Reports/eulogies should be 250–400 words, poems/songs should be at least 7 lines in length, and audio/visual work should be 2–4 minutes in length.

Note: Projects that meet the contest guidelines may be submitted to the Gilder Lehrman Institute for the Veterans Legacy Project World War II Portraits of Service Award (ten \$500 prizes). See the contest rules here: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/veterans-legacy-program/student-contest>

Submission Type (Circle One):

Written Report/ Eulogy - Poem/Song – Mini-Documentary/Mini-Podcast

Basic Information (where available)

Veteran/Service Member’s Name: _____ Birth date: _____

US Armed Forces Branch: _____ Enlistment Date: _____ Discharge Date: _____

Date of death: _____ Burial Location: _____

Note-Taking Organizer:

Background Facts about the Veteran/Service Member

Background Fact #1: _____

Source: _____

Background Fact #2: _____

Source: _____

Background Fact #3: _____



NAME

PERIOD

DATE

Source: _____

Reasons for Enlisting

Possible Supporting Evidence #1: _____

Source: _____

Brief written summary of the Veteran's or service members' service in the military and other interesting or useful facts about their life.



Where to Start Your Research

Websites

These are a few websites that could prove useful for your research. Please be aware that websites like Ancestry, Family Search, Fold3, Newspapers.com, and others may require subscriptions, but it is worth checking whether your school or local library system provides free access to those sites.

- The National Cemetery Find a Cemetery Administration’s webpage: <https://www.cem.va.gov/find-cemetery/index.asp>
 - Most National Cemetery Administration sites have a home webpage that lists selected Veterans and service members interred at the site under the “Notable Persons” section.
 - For example: <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/cypresshills.asp>
- US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) resources
 - National Gravesite Locator: <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>
 - Search for burial locations of Veterans or service members and their family members in VA National Cemeteries, state Veterans cemeteries, various other military cemeteries.
- Veterans Legacy Memorial: <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>
- Armed Services websites
 - US Army Heritage and Education Center: <ahec.armywarcollege.edu/>
 - Naval History and Heritage Command: history.navy.mil/
 - Marine Corps History Division: grc-usmcu.libguides.com/marine-corps-archives/main
 - Air Force Historical Research Agency: afhra.af.mil/
- Other useful websites
 - National Archives: archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online
 - Most of the military records at the National Archives are not online, but you may find some useful records here that have been digitized.
- Military Indexes: www.militaryindexes.com

This site is run by an individual genealogist. Select the war you are researching and scroll down to the “Records by State” section.

- Find a Grave: www.findagrave.com

This website is run by private individuals and compiles crowd-sourced information

Community Resources

- Contact your local historical societies, veterans’ organizations, and libraries to assist you in your research. Your local libraries or school librarian or media specialist may have access to newspaper databases to locate news articles about your research subject.
- Search your community for memorials, historic sites, and displays that honor local Veterans and service members. Visit one of these locations to identify someone you would like to honor by telling the story of why they served.