Looking Back: A Veteran’s Story

If your family has been in Canada for several generations, many of your ancestors probably fought in the First and Second World Wars. During these conflicts, hundreds of thousands of young Canadian men (and a few women) left their homes, took up arms and crossed the globe to Europe and Asia. Most of these were young men who had no idea what was awaiting them and many of them never returned home.

These stories form a large part of many family histories in Canada. Some people have heirlooms and mementos of these wars to pass on to future generations to ensure that the stories are not forgotten. In this assignment, you will explore the First World War through the mementos and memories of someone who was there.

# Task:

Using a variety of primary sources, your job is to write a short typed (2page double spaced– 500 word minimum) biography about a veteran of the First World War. You may include pictures/other mementos but you still need to reach the 500 word maximum.

1. Go to **Canadian Letters** and search the WWI archives. (<http://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/468>) Pick one Canadian soldier or nurse. Try to choose a person who has a good selection of letters. Pick a person who you feel connected with in some way.

2. Go to **Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 – CEF** (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>)

Search for your chosen Veteran’s attestation forms. This is the form they filled in when they signed up to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. It will tell you where they are from, their religion, their height/weight, their original job, and more.

3. Go to [www.automatedgenealogy.com](http://www.automatedgenealogy.com) to find Census information for your veteran. Search the 1905 and 1911 Censuses to see if you can find your veteran and/or their family. This will tell you where they lived and if they had family nearby.

4. If your soldier died in action go to Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)) to see where there grave is located abroad. You can also find out their rank, age, date of death. Depending on available information there may be additional primary documents here as well.

5. For additional information visit:

* Veterans Affairs Canada – First World War (Government of Canada)
* Veteran Stories: The First World War (The Memory Project)
* CBC Digital Archives: First World War (Canadian Broadcasting Company)

6. You also need to include a bibliography that includes all the sources used in the project. You should use a minimum of three sources. Wikipedia can be used as a source, but only as a fourth source; you will still need three other sources for your biography. [Easybib](http://www.easybib.com/" \t "_blank) or [Bibme](http://www.bibme.org/" \t "_blank) can help you format your sources correctly, but you may need to provide some information on your own. Your bibliography should be on a separate page at the end of your assignment. You should also use quotations in your essay, but these should not be longer than two lines and should be cited properly. Please use MLA style.

Remember, ***copying and pasting is not research***. If any portion of your assignment is found to be copied from another source, you will be asked to redo the assignment from scratch. Check for spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar mistakes before submitting your project.

Make sure to do the assignment completely, check your work and use proper formal writing skills that are consistent with 12th grade students.

\*\*All links are available online along with Ms. Warnock’s Exemplar\*

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|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Requirements  Length and Sources | The biography length is far below the expectation.  No sources | The biography is below the required length.  Not enough Sources | The biography meets the required length to a minimal level or with some errors.  2-3 somewhat appropriate sources | The biography meets the required length.  3 sources good sources | The biography meets or exceeds the required length.  More than 3 good sources |
| Content(x2) | The information presented is highly inaccurate or not researched. The student appears to be making stuff up as he or she goes along. | The information presented is often inaccurate. Little research is evident. | The information presented is mixed in terms of accuracy. Minimal research is evident throughout. | The information presented is accurate. Good research is evident throughout. | The information presented is accurate and insightful. Excellent research is evident throughout. |
| Communication | Student's communication is weak and frequent spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors make it difficult to comprehend what he or she is trying to say. | Student's communication is poor with several significant spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors that interfere with comprehension. | Student's communication is flawed. Some spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors interfere with comprehension. | Student's communication is good There are no significant spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors. | Student's communication is excellent There are no significant spelling, grammatical or punctuation errors. |
| Total /25 | | | | | |