

Fog of War

War of 1812 RAFT Assignment

Background information:

During the War of 1812 the phrase, “The Fog of War” was used, as it was an accurate representation of the conditions that soldiers fought under during this war. Confusion and misinformation were common, as the parties that fought this war did not have the technology to aid them in communication, transportation, and weaponry that are available to soldiers today.

The Fog of War can literally mean that it is difficult for soldiers to see through the smoke that is caused by musket fire but it can also refer to the confusion that occurs during battles due to inaccurate or lack of information regarding what the enemy is doing. The term seeks to capture the uncertainty regarding one’s own capability, the capability of your enemy, and adversarial intent during an engagement, operation, or campaign.

Assignment:

Using this idea “The Fog of War” you will create an original RAFT assignment that captures what it was like to be a soldier or warrior during the War of 1812. To complete a RAFT Assignment you will write from the point of view of a historical character. It is important that you include historically accurate details to help the reader better understand your character. Please write clearly, strive for creativity, and pay attention to the format.

To write **RAFT** you will do the following:

1. Choose a **R**ole; what historical person will you portray? You may choose from the following list or choose another that represents an individual that participated in the War of 1812.
 - American Militia
 - American Navy
 - British Royal Army
 - British Royal Navy
 - Canadian Colonial Militia
 - Native American Warrior (Shawnee/Haudensaunee)
2. Choose an **A**udience; who will you be writing to? You may choose to write a letter home, a speech, an article for a local newspaper, a poem, a letter to The President, The King, Colonial Governor or another idea that would be believable during this time period.
3. Choose a **F**ormat; what type of format or writing style will you use? You can write formally as in a letter to a government official, informally as in a journal, in verse as in a song or poem, or in another format of your choosing.
4. Choose a **T**opic; what event or series of events from the war will you be writing about? You may choose to describe the everyday life of a soldier, you may choose to describe a battle or campaign, and you may be victorious or die from a mortal wound. The focus must be on someone who participated in the war but it is not mandatory that it is an actual person.