**Writing Assignment: A Soldier’s Life Editorial**

You are a reporter who has been sent by your home-town newspaper to a winter camp of either the Army of the Potomac or the Army of Northern Virginia.

Folks back home are eager to know how their sons, fathers, brothers, and sweethearts are doing. You are in charge of investigating and gathering information about the soldier’s daily lives, meals, and the camp. You will then prepare an editorial that will be dispatched to your newspaper.

Be sure to include pertinent and accurate facts about what you are witnessing. It is your responsibility to inform the people at home about the daily lives of their loved ones.

Be sure to also include your opinion of whether the soldiers are being treated well and, fed well, and what folks back home can do to help their soldiers.

Your editorial dispatch should be structured as a four-paragraph essay. It must have an introduction (first paragraph), a body (two middle paragraphs that can describe three aspects of a soldiers life) and a conclusion (your opinion about what folks back home can do to help support the soldiers and why they should).

How it’s graded

Article is written in a logical sequence and is well organized. 5

Article has a strong introduction. 5

The body of the article is logical and well organized. 5

Article captures the reader’s attention. Events are easily understood by the reader. 5

Article has a strong conclusion that provides the reader with ideas about what the people at home can do to help support the soldiers and make their lives easier. Article provides indepth coverage of the topic and a clear editorial opinion. 5

Student accurately incorporates relevant vocabulary and names of places and people. 5

Article is written in a way that demonstrates student understanding of the learning objectives from the lesson plan, that is, equipment, uniforms, weapons, hardships, health issues, camp life, etc. 5

Correct spelling, sentence structure, usage and punctuation are evident throughout the article. 5