

Historical Letter Writing

Directions:

Imagine you were an American officer who attended the surrender ceremony at Yorktown. Describe the events you witnessed in a long journal entry or letter to your wife, husband, sibling, parents, or close friend. Your journal or letter should include great detail so the reader feels as if they were actually present at the event. Include:

1. Your thoughts about the ceremony
2. The British behavior
3. Your feelings about the war ending and a new nation being “born.”
4. Correct historic date

To research your topic:

Watch Harvest of Victory starting at 31:00 Video link on my web page

Read: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/yorktown.htm>

Read: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/cornwallis-surrenders-at-yorktown>

Read: Textbook page 166

OR

Imagine you were an American officer who was present at George Washington’s farewell. In a long journal entry or a letter to your wife, husband, sibling, parents, or close friend, describe the evening at Fraunces Tavern where General George Washington said farewell to you and the other officers. Give a detailed description of

1. the room
2. the lighting
3. the conversation
4. the food
5. Washington’s speech (his demeanor, voice, body language, etc.)
6. other’s reactions
7. your personal experience and emotions that night.

To research your topic:

Watch Harvest of Victory starting at 36:00 Video link on my web page

Read: <http://www.frauncestavernmuseum.org/history/> Scroll to 1776-1784

Read: <http://www.sageamericanhistory.net/federalperiod/docs/gwfarewell1783.htm>