

One Person as a Window on a Period

Civil War Recipes

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

Explain why an informational author uses one person's experience to illuminate a larger historical period.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A claim-evidence explanation connecting one person's details to a broader historical idea.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does the author zoom in on one person instead of describing the whole period only in general terms?

TEXT FOCUS

A named individual used to make a broad historical condition concrete.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Name the broad topic | 3 min State the larger historical condition the section explains.
2. Collect personal details | 5 min List two details about the featured person's experience.
3. Connect | 4 min For each detail, state what broader condition it illustrates.
4. Explain the author's choice | 6 min Write why this person is an effective example.
5. Check | 2 min Avoid claiming the one person represents every person.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

The individual example turns a broad historical condition into something concrete while still serving as evidence for a larger pattern the author explains.

LOOK FOR

- States the broader topic accurately.
- Connects two personal details to that topic.
- Explains the author's purpose without overgeneralizing.

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