Creating a Working Bibliography for Student Research in the American Civil War.

To be successful you must start reading immediately. Read strategically—focus on your interest and then narrow down the material as you define your thesis. You can and should “skim” through some materials picking up ideas for more reading later. Become familiar with the MTC Library and its resources: http://www.lib.midlandstech.edu/.

If your topic is a person, read some of a biography and or autobiography of the person. See the bibliography of sources in the biography for more materials. See also the bibliography in your text book (McPherson, Ordeal by Fire, 4th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2009) for ideas. Pick a current or recent book to start. Use the Library and the Web Resources for Students to find related print and online material.

Always take notes and keep a list of all sources used.

Below is a highly select starting list for books and resources on the Civil War. See also the bibliography in McPherson, Ordeal by Fire, 4th ed. (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2009). Note the select list below is not in proper style, but abbreviated here.


Ayers, Edward L. and Rubin, Anne S. Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War (Orlando, 2000).


Catton, Bruce, Glory Road (Garden City, 1952).

__________. Grant Moves South (Boston, 1960).

__________. Grant Takes Command (Boston, 1968).

__________. Mr. Lincoln’s Army (Garden City, 1951).

__________. A Stillness at Appomattox (Garden City, 1953).

__________. This Hallowed Ground (Garden City, 1951).

Commager, Henry Steele, ed. The Blue and the Gray: The Story of the Civil War as Told by Participants (Indianapolis, 1950).


Davis, William C., ed. The Image of War 1861-1865, 6 vols. (Garden City, 1984).


__________. *Landscape Turned Red* (New Haven, 1983).


Weisberger, Bernard A. *Reporters for the Union* (Boston, 1953).


__________. *Voices of the Civil War* (New York, 1976).

__________. *Witness to Gettysburg* (New York, 1987).


