



## Session 4: Writing our Civil War Quest

**Focusing Question:** How can we share what we've learned about our community's involvement in the Civil War with others?

**Overview:** Students first establish a route for their Quest. They then either go back to the cemetery or use maps/photographs from their first field trip to compose *movement clues* (procedures) to guide visitors along the Quest route. They then use their research to create a *teaching clue* to share what they've learned. Finally they create an illustration that synthesizes their learning.

### **Materials:**

- Photographs/map of cemetery created at first field trip
- Movement clue worksheet (Handout A)
- Putting it all together worksheet (Handout B)
- Masking tape
- Index cards, post-it notes (or scraps of paper)

**Length:** Two or three 30 - 40 minute periods

### **Procedures:**

Before you move through these procedures, review with your class one or two examples of other student work at [www.valleyquest.org](http://www.valleyquest.org). Then....

1. Establish the "Quest domain"
  - *Let's map this quest site...right here on the floor!"*
  - Using the duct tape, establish the baseline(s); the four directions.
  - Pick a Quest starting point (place to park OR that is easy to find)
  - From there, move mentally through this site, marking the approximate location of each gravestone using either 'post its' or index cards.
2. Establish route

- Next, sequence the cards into an order which becomes your Quest ROUTE

### 3. Clarify assignment

Clarify that on this field trip, each group - working in its segment - will need to create a movement clue leading to their stone (from the last one). The 1<sup>st</sup> group writes from the Quest starting point.

Pre-teach movement clues in the classroom (or on campus) using the attached form.

- First, walk between your two stones making observations.
- Next, chose the landmarks / ideas that you like best.
- Then, sequence them into procedures.
- And now, work to turn them into 1 – 3 fragments...
- And finally into the desired form (sentences, couplets, etc.)

### 4. Movement Clues

- Head out on the field trip! Each group drafts their movement clue.
- Then two groups pair up to test / refine each other's work.

### 5. Back in the Classroom - Teaching clue / drawings (one period)

- Pre teach the Synthesis process using the "Pulling it all together" form (Handout B)
  - First, create a list of the things you know about your topic.
  - Next, circle the facts that feel most important to share.
  - Then, sequence these ideas into a best order: A, B, C, etc.
  - And now, turn that into a DRAFT paragraph or two of "synthesis writing."
  - Finally, create an illustration that helps convey your idea / story.
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- Students put their paragraph and image into the form.