

American History

Historical Problem: What Happened at the Alamo?

Examining and Evaluating Multiple Perspectives

You will be examining multiple perspectives on what happened at the Alamo. You have been asked to create an accurate three paragraph account to be included in an American history textbook. You will start by locating and recording multiple accounts of what happened at the Alamo. You will be evaluating the accounts for accuracy, detail and bias. Using what you learned from those accounts, you will write your historical account of the event.

1. You want to examine primary sources about the Alamo. These include:

- Diagram of the Alamo
- Maps of Bexar and Texas
- Primary Accounts (see resources)

2. Since you are a good historian, you have chosen to select and examine six accounts of what happened at the Alamo. To help you examine and evaluate each account, the following worksheets have been provided:

- Comparisons worksheet
- Agree/Disagree worksheet
- Focus questions

3. You will need to organize your ideas and write an accurate three paragraph account of what happened at the Alamo. Remember that your account is being written for an American history textbook. What should you write in order to be accurate and objective?

- Are all points of agreement included in the account?
- Are all of the points of disagreement explained or justified?
- Are there descriptive words that may bias the reader?
- Are the events in an understandable order?

4. After you have shared your ideas with the textbook editor (teacher), you will write the paragraphs and turn the finished product into your editor.

- Are there sequencing words that guide the reader?
- Are there “guide words” which indicate agreement, disagreement and summary statements?
- Have you examined your writing using the 6+1 writing traits?

5. Self evaluation of the writing:

What did you like about this piece of writing?

What changes would you recommend?

Extension - You might want to select maps and/or illustrations to accompany your section: What happened at the Alamo? Be sure to include captions.