

Historical Perspective of Confederation

As you've seen so far in this course, the 1860s were awash with ideas for a potential union of the some or all of the colonies in British North America. In this assignment, you will adopt the vantage point of a player from this historical stage and present that person's point of view on Confederation. You must choose to represent the viewpoint either of one of the "Fathers of Confederation," such as George-Étienne Cartier or John A. Macdonald, or of a notable opponent of Confederation such as Joseph Howe of Nova Scotia. You will present the person's point of view on not only the advantages or disadvantages on Confederation but also the form that that Confederation should take (e.g., a Maritime union, a union of the two Canadas, or a broader union of colonies in British North America).

You will present your person's point-of-view in a format typical of the 1860s:

- A speech
- A newspaper opinion piece or letter to the editor
- A letter
- A journal or diary entry


Whatever format you choose for this assignment, be sure to answer the following topics (although not necessarily numbered and in this order!):

1. Does your person support or oppose Confederation? If you are unsure of your individual's exact personal opinion, be sure to present the perspective that makes the most sense given his province and region. What background information is needed to understand his province's stance towards Confederation?

Include a line or two about each of the following:

- the various political parties and their agendas in your individual's colony
 - the possible effects of the American Civil War, including the Trent Affair, St. Alban's Raid, the Fenian Brotherhood, and the cancellation of the Reciprocity Treaty by the US
 - the influence of the decision to build an intercolonial railway
2. What does your individual see as the opinion of each of the other pre-Confederation regions—NB, NS, PEI, Upper Canada (Ontario), Lower Canada (Quebec) —with respect to a union?
 3. How does your person plan to participate in the three Confederation Conferences? Be sure to describe these Confederation Conferences in some detail: where and when did they occur? Who represented each region? What was achieved at each conference?

This assignment should be approximately **two (2)** pages long, plus references where applicable.



Expectations

- Students will accurately relay the point of view of their individual and base their assumptions on appropriate facts, evidence, and understanding of historical perspectives.
- Students will not only research the point of view of their individuals and those around them but also cite their sources accurately.
- Students will clearly communicate their ideas and opinions in their choice of format with prior approval from their online teacher.

Criteria

	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
<p>Knowledge of Historical Content</p> <p>25%</p>	<p>Student work demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a basic understanding of the pertinent historical events in terms of accuracy, sequencing and interconnectedness of events. • a plausible, basic use of facts, examples and historical evidence to support reasonable arguments. <p>3–4</p>	<p>Student work demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an in-depth understanding of the pertinent historical events in terms of accuracy, sequencing and interconnectedness of events. • an exemplary use of facts, examples and historical evidence to support reasonable arguments for each perspective. <p>5</p>
<p>Presentation of the points of view involved</p> <p>50%</p>	<p>Student work demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reasonable understanding of the historical context of Canada before Confederation. • a basic understanding of the point of view of an individual Father of Confederation or opponent to Confederation. • a solid attempt to present the point of view of an historical figure in an appropriate format. <p>6–8</p>	<p>Student work is insightful and demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a thorough understanding of the historical context of Canada before Confederation. • an in-depth, precise understanding of the point of view of an individual Father of Confederation or opponent to Confederation. • an engaging attempt to adopt the point of view of an historical figure in an appropriate format. <p>9–10</p>

Communicating Information 25%	All sources of information are credible, and most are cited correctly (where citation is applicable to this assignment). Student work is presented in a straightforward manner. Simplistic use of transition words, links or lead-ins provide unity and coherence.	All information sources are credible and cited correctly (where citation is applicable to this assignment). Student work is presented in an engaging manner. Skillful use of transition words, links, or lead-ins provide unity and coherence.
	3–4	5

