

Student Handout #1

The Crafting of a Biography

The job of most historians involves three major components – researching, writing, and teaching. To give you a taste of what this important academic discipline involves, you are going to write a biography on one of the important South Carolinians of the Revolutionary War period – Christopher Gadsden.

Typically, historians have to do much of their own research spending hours in libraries, archives, and other places trying to locate sources. For the purpose of this project, you will be provided ten sources related to Gadsden. Some of these sources are primary and some are secondary. Remember that primary sources are sources created by a person or event of the time period you are studying. A secondary source is one written years later by someone not involved or present at the actual event.

What follows is a table that summarizes the steps of this biography project, due dates, and points.

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Take notes on: *Edgar article		10
Take notes on: *obituary		5
Take notes on: *Deane letter *Gadsden's letter to James Pearson		5
Take notes on: *Stamp Act's Repeal Reaches Charles Town! *Meeting of the Sons of Liberty in Fall 1766		5
Take notes on: *Porcher excerpt *Gadsden's letter to Washington		10
Take notes on: *Gadsden's will *Gadsden's inventory		Will - 10 Inventory - 5
Pre-Write		10
Rough Draft		10
Final Draft		20