

MONUMENTAL CANADIANS LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES
Talbot Mercer Papineau: A LOST LEADER


NAME: Maj. Talbot Papineau

BORN: March 25, 1883 (Montebello, Quebec)

DECEASED: October 30, 1917 (Passchendaele)

EPIC BATTLE: St. Elois and Passchendaele

RANK: Major

HONOURS: Military Cross

LESSON OUTCOMES:

- Perspective taking and creative thinking
- Practice written communication skills

ACTIVITY:

1. Watch the Monumental Canadians Talbot Papineau video clip with students. Stop the video as needed to address difficult vocabulary, concepts and answer questions. Consider watching it through uninterrupted afterwards.
2. For further information about Papineau, encourage students to research him online. A thorough but brief biography can be found here: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/papineau_talbot_mercer_14E.html
3. Explain to students what a R.A.F.T. assignment is. (See assignment sheet below)
 - a. **R = Role:** students can choose to write from the perspective of Talbot Papineau or his cousin, Henri Bourassa, who were of opposite opinions about the First World War. Encourage students to write from a perspective they identify with strongly, or to challenge themselves by writing from a perspective that differs from their own.
 - b. **A = Audience:** students can choose to write to Bourassa or Papineau depending on the perspective they have chosen to write from. They could also write to a member of Papineau's family or to Beatrice Fox, a woman Papineau wrote to regularly from the front lines.
 - c. **F = Format:** students may write a personal letter, or an open letter to Henri Bourassa (the editor of *Le Devoir*, a French nationalist newspaper founded in 1910).
 - d. **T = Topic:** depending on the role they have chosen, students can write about Papineau's experience in the war or his perspective regarding Canada's obligations to the British. If they are writing as Bourassa, they can counter Papineau's political views and delve into the issue of French Nationalism.
4. Specify the expectations students must meet in terms of style, length, research and depth of thought. Consider co-creating a rubric.

Objectives:

Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:

- » *Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.*
- » *Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.*
- » *Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.*

Intended Student Body:
Advanced Grades

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Monumental Canadians Forgotten Fallen Video Clip: <https://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/maj-talbot-papineau/> (5 minutes)
- Activity Sheet: Talbot Papineau R.A.F.T. Assignment

ASSIGNMENT SHEET: TALBOT PAPINEAU R.A.F.T. ASSIGNMENT**Talbot Papineau: A Lost Leader****1) View Valour Canada's Monumental Canadians Talbot Papineau Video Clip:**

<https://valourcanada.ca/video-documentaries/maj-talbot-papineau/>

Notes about the video clip:



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2) Discuss or reflect on the following questions:

- Based on his actions and the letters read in the video, how did Papineau feel about the War?
- Based on the information in the video, how did Henri Bourassa, Papineau's cousin and editor of the French Nationalist newspaper *Le Devoir* feel about the War?
- Why do you think French Canadians on a whole did not support the First World War?

3) R.A.F.T. Assignment

- R = Role:** write from the perspective of Talbot Papineau or his cousin Henri Bourassa, who were of opposite opinions about the First World War. Consider writing from a perspective you identify with strongly or challenge yourself by writing from a perspective that differs from your own. A thorough but brief biography of Papineau can be found here: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/papineau_talbot_mercer_14E.html
- A = Audience:** depending on the perspective you have chosen to write from, write to either Bourassa or Papineau. You could also write to a member of Papineau's family or to Beatrice Fox, a woman Papineau wrote to regularly from the front lines.
- F = Format:** write a personal letter, or an open letter to Henri Bourassa (editor of *Le Devoir*, a French newspaper). The actual letter from Papineau to Bourassa can be found here: https://archive.org/stream/cihm_78524#page/n13/mode/1up
- T = Topic:** depending on the role you have chosen, write about Papineau's experience in the war or his perspective regarding Canada's obligations to the British. If you are writing as Bourassa, you can counter Papineau's political views and delve into the issue of French Nationalism.

"As I write, French and English Canadians are fighting and dying side by side. Is their sacrifice to go for nothing or will it not cement a foundation for a true Canadian nation...?"

-Talbot Papineau, from his open letter to Bourassa, original written in the field shown in image below

bombardement. I have known my own dogmas to be seriously disturbed in the midst of a German artillery concentration. I can assure you that the further you travel from Canada and the nearer you approach the great



Henri Bourassa