Purpose: Comparing Texts

Task:
Students will evaluate a set of texts in order to compare and contrast themes and facts.

Sample Essential Question:
What is the value of using different sources?

Standards:
Wisconsin Social Studies Standards
SS.Hist1.a.i Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable causes of historical events, issues, and problems.
SS.Hist1.b.i Use evidence to draw conclusions about probable effects of historical events, issues, and problems.

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts
RI.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
RI.4.5 Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text
RI.4.9 Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably

Materials:
Animated videos, books/ebooks, and resources from WisconsinBiographies.org
Comparing Texts worksheet (attached)

Directions:
1. Have each student choose a story from the Wisconsin Biographies series.
2. Instruct students to watch the animated video of the person.
3. Next, students should write a theme and a chronological list of events on the Comparing Texts worksheet.
4. Tell students to read the corresponding biography and repeat step three.
5. Have the students find a third source (examples listed on WisconsinBiographies.org Resource page) and repeat step three.
6. Independently or in small groups, have students prepare a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the themes and information learned while evaluating the texts. Share the Venn diagrams with the class.
7. As a class, discuss the value of using different sources.
Comparing Texts

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<tr>
<th>Video Story</th>
<th>Biography</th>
<th>Other Source</th>
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