

## *Civil War Letters Analysis Worksheet*

1. What can we infer about the letter writer at the time the Civil War started, his or her home, family members, work, level of education? How do you know?
2. Can we tell which side the author of this letter supported, the Union or Confederacy? If so, how do we know? Give specifics.
3. What is happening during the Civil War at the time the letters were written? (Students can check their texts and/or internet sources)
4. If the author is a man, why do you think he has enlisted? Does he say anything about the views or attitudes he holds that have led him to make the commitment to fight, or can we infer them in any way?
5. If the author is a woman, does she say anything that enables us to know which side of the conflict she supports and why?
6. If either the author or recipient is a woman, what can we learn about the lives of women during the Civil War from the letters? How did women make sacrifices for or contributions to the war effort, even though they themselves could not fight or hold political power?
7. What personal concerns does the author express? Is the Civil War the only threat to his or her well being and happiness?
8. How important does it appear to be for the author to receive letters and/or to write letters at this time? Why?
9. By searching the Internet site where the letters appear, or any other sources, what can you discover about the letter writer?