**Greta Huhta**

* + **Classroom Activity—7th grade U.S. History**
	+ **Title—A Letter Home**
	+ **Objectives**
	+ By watching YouTube excerpts and researching on the Internet, the student will summarize the daily life of a Native American child enrolled at an Indian Boarding School by writing a creative letter.
	+ Within the creative letter, the student will compare and contrast the daily life in an Indian boarding school to life on an Indian reservation or nomadic tribe.
	+ Within the letter, the student will create ideas to help bring the Native American children back to their homes on the reservation or to their tribal community, or to improve life at the boarding school.
	+ **Snappy Launch**
	+ To start the lesson, I will show the first 5:30 minutes of this YouTube video to the students:
	+ [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Avt-5cfb3ng&feature=related](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Avt-5cfb3ng&feature=related)
	+ **Procedure**
	+ Following the first video excerpt, I’ll have a brief discussion with the students.  “This past week we’ve been learning of the plight of the Native American in the late 1800’s.  They now have been moved to reservations.  But where are all the children?  Why did the U.S. government send the children away?”  Then to provide a brief summary of the Indian Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, I’ll show a second YouTube excerpt:
	+ [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywGJ2YDq0n4&feature=related](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywGJ2YDq0n4&feature=related)
	+ Then I’ll have the students spend the rest of the hour in the media center and computer lab researching the Indian Boarding School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania or one similar found throughout the United States.
	+ The student needs to research the daily life of the students at the Indian Boarding Schools and how it compares to their past life on the reservation or with their nomadic tribe.
	+ **Vocabulary**
	+ Acculturation—the process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group, esp. a dominant one
	+ Assimilation—the act or process of incorporating as one’s own
	+ **Check for Understanding--Homework**
	+ From the mindset of a seventh grade student at an Indian Boarding School, the student has to write a fictitious creative letter home to their Native American parents living on a reservation or with a nomadic tribe.
	+ The letter needs 1-2 paragraphs explaining the daily life at the Indian boarding school.  It also needs 1-2 paragraphs including things that the student misses from home (comparing & contrasting), and then the final paragraph needs to offer some unique idea(s) to help the student return home, or make life better at the school.
	+ **Assessment**
	+ Creative Letter—Daily life (10 points), Compare & Contrast (10 pts), Unique Solution (5 pts)