“The American is a clever enemy in close combat, in which he uses his pistol with special skill. Our infantry was defeated in close combat in pistol firing...”
-From a German army report that was captured by the U.S. First Division. An unknown soldier wrote it on Oct. 14, 1918 at 52nd German Infantry Division Headquarters.

1) What does the German solider admire about the American solider?

2) Pretend you are a U.S. military leader. How might you use this captured document to their advantage?

3) Why do you think American troops were so good in close combat situations?
“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

**Reading guide – page 1**

**PAGE 4A**

1) How did the Battle for Mayache Ravine showcase the terrain of the Meuse-Argonne Region?

2) How did German Major Rainer Volbrecht plan to use the French landscape to outflank America’s 91st Division?

**PAGE 4B**

1) What was America’s overall objective during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive?

2) Why was the German 117th Division crushed by the initial American assault?

3) Good leaders inspire. If you were a soldier listening to General Georg von der Marwitz’ speech, how inspired would you have been?

   Rating ( 1-10, 10 = most inspired) ________

BE THE SPEECHWRITER. What would you add to the speech to make it more inspiring?
1) Contrast Volbrecht’s Luger pistol with Moore’s Colt pistol.

2) How experienced were U.S. Sgt. Moore and his men?

3) How experienced was German Major Rainer Volbrecht?

4) How did the showdown begin?

5) How did the showdown end?
“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

DIRECTIONS – “Act it Out” performance planning

It’s time to put your own creative twist on this pistol duel.

First, you will be assigned performance groups. In these groups, you will create a skit to perform live or videotape.

Next, once you are settled into your groups, you will assign each group member a specific job.

Here are the possibilities:
• Actor – Sgt. Moore
• Actor - Major Volbrecht
• Scriptwriter(s)
• Prop coordinator
• Movie producer (if you choose a video-taping rather than a live performance)

At the start of next class, you will either act out your skit or play the video of your group’s performance. The rubric on the next page explains how you will be graded. Each group member will receive the same grade.
"Act it Out" – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

**Presentation rubric**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delivery of script</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- not clearly articulated, too fast or slow</td>
<td>- somewhat clearly articulated, a bit slow or fast</td>
<td>- clearly articulated, good pace</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- unprofessional attitude</td>
<td>- somewhat professional attitude</td>
<td>- professional attitude</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- no eye contact</td>
<td>- eye contact occurred</td>
<td>- good eye contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance of script</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- little structure</td>
<td>- some structure</td>
<td>- good structure that is easy to understand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- little use of transitions</td>
<td>- some use of transitions</td>
<td>- good use of transitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- some flow</td>
<td>- some flow</td>
<td>- good flow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL: ________ out of 20**
“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

CLIP: What makes a movie script good?

DIRECTIONS: Fill out this viewing guide as you watch the clip. Be prepared to share your notes and ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How should you structure a good script?</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How should characters behave in the different acts of the script?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive's pistol duel

**Script organizer**

```
Name: ______________________  Date: __________  Class Period: __________

**Story Plot Terms**

Directions: Fill in the required information for each section below in numerical order. Use the information that appears with each section to help you proceed. It’s okay to write through the gray diagonal line in two of the sections.

3. The **climax** of the story is when the reader is most interested in how the story will end. The suspense is at its peak, but the outcome is not clear yet.

3. **Climax**

2. As the story progresses, the **rising action** introduces complications and problems for the main character. These difficulties create suspense.

2. **Rising Action**

4. **Falling Action** appears at the ending of the story. Suspense has been eliminated, and these events show characters’ lives returning to normal.

4. **Falling Action**

1. The **exposition** appears at the beginning of the story. The author introduces the setting, characters, and background information.

1. **Exposition**

5. The **resolution** is the final solution to the problem or conflict. In stories with happy endings it’s called the **denouement**. Tragic endings are termed **catastrophe**.

5. **Resolution**

Source: http://www.dailyteachingtools.com/free-graphic-organizers.html
"Act it Out" – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

**Script – page 1**

Title of skit: ________________________________
"Act it Out" – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

Script – page 2
“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

Script – page 3