

Name:

Nonfiction: Point of View & Perspective

Date:

As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

The Duel of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr

Version 1

On July 11, 1804, Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton met for a duel in Weehawken, NJ. Hamilton was a founding father of our country and a signer of our Constitution. Burr was his bitter enemy. Hamilton fired his pistol first, and missed on purpose. Burr fired second. His bullet hit Hamilton's liver and spine. Hamilton died the next day. The **circumstances** leading up to the duel were mostly Aaron Burr's fault.

During the Revolutionary War, both Hamilton and Burr distinguished themselves as heroes. George Washington, who was the army commander-in-chief at the time, made Hamilton his chief aide. Washington also made Burr an aide, but Burr quit after just a few weeks. It's rumored that Washington and Burr did not get along. When Washington became president, he selected Alexander Hamilton to be our country's first secretary of the treasury (the person in government who oversees our country's finances and money). Burr was jealous that George Washington favored Hamilton over him.

The father of Hamilton's wife was a New York senator named Phillip Schuyler. To get back at Hamilton, Burr decided to run against Schuyler for his senate position. Burr won the election and took Schuyler's job. Later, Burr ran against Thomas Jefferson for president. Burr lost the election and took it personally that Hamilton had supported Jefferson instead of him. When Hamilton didn't support Burr again when he later ran for governor of New York, Burr was offended and challenged Hamilton to a duel.



Name:

Nonfiction: Point of View & Perspective – Q2:6

Date:

As you answer this week's questions, highlight your evidence in the text.

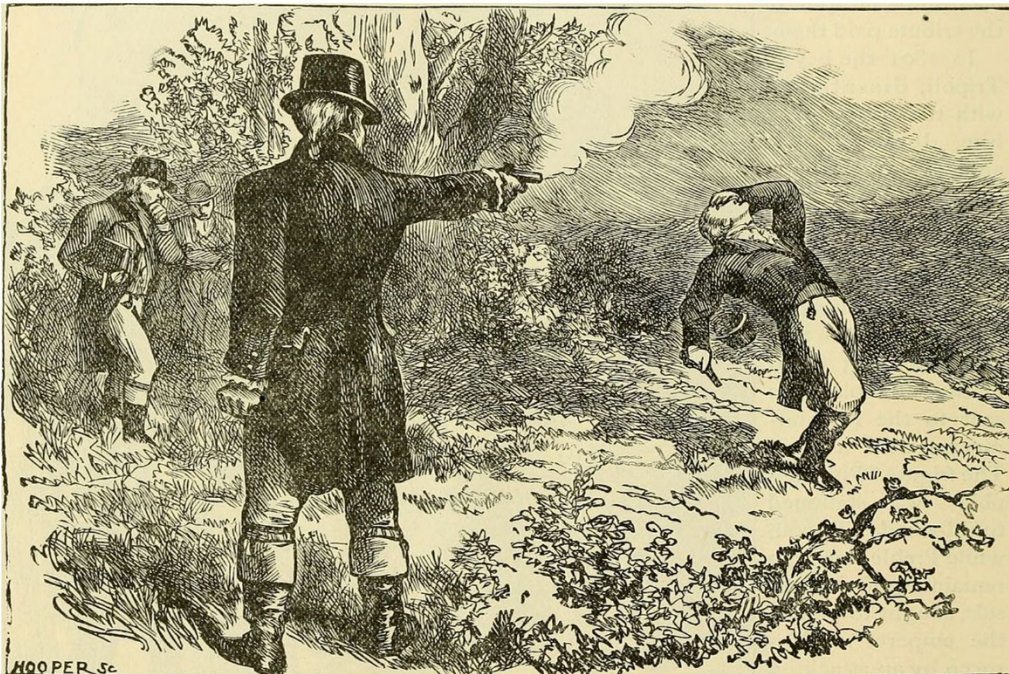
The Duel of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr

Version 2

On July 11, 1804, Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton met on a cliffside overlooking the Hudson River, prepared to duel. Burr was the vice-president of the United States. Hamilton was his bitter enemy. The two men fired their shots. Hamilton missed. Burr did not. Hamilton fell to the ground, seriously wounded. Burr ventured forward to check on Hamilton, but someone held him back. Hamilton died the next day, but the circumstances leading up to his death were really his own fault.

Hamilton had unfairly held a grudge against Burr for years. In 1791, Aaron Burr won the New York election to become a United States senator. The losing opponent happened to be Hamilton's father-in-law. Hamilton was angry that Burr had run against his wife's father. When Burr won, Hamilton took it personally. From then on, Hamilton actively engaged in **sabotaging** Burr's political career.

In the presidential election of 1800, Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson received the same number of Electoral College votes. Hamilton didn't like either man, but he disliked Burr more. To sway a revote toward Jefferson, Hamilton called Burr "far more cunning than wise." He said Burr was "inferior in real ability to Jefferson." Jefferson won the presidency. Burr became vice-president because back then, the "runner-up" became the vice-president. When his vice-presidency was coming to an end, Burr ran for governor of New York. Hamilton did not want Burr to win so he said terrible insults about him. A newspaper quoted Hamilton calling Burr "a dangerous man" and "despicable." After Burr lost the election, he sent Hamilton a letter giving him two options: apologize for his remarks...or face him in a duel! It was Hamilton's refusal to apologize that led to his death in the duel.



Nonfiction: Point of View & Perspective

Monday

What is the main idea of both texts?

If you were Aaron Burr, which version would you prefer? Why?

According to version one, who is to blame for Hamilton's death?

Determine the meaning of the word **circumstances** in the text.

Tuesday

According to version one, why was Burr jealous of Hamilton?

Which version makes Burr seem like the "bad guy" in the New York election?

According to both texts, how did Hamilton feel when Burr won the New York election against his father-in-law?

Who eventually became vice-president?

Nonfiction: Point of View & Perspective

Wednesday

According to version two, why did Hamilton insult Burr when he ran for governor of New York?

Would either of these articles be a good source for learning about this historical event? Why or why not?

Which version claims the duel was caused by Hamilton's refusal to apologize?

Determine the meaning of the word **sabotaging** in the text.

Thursday

Based on the evidence, what can we tell about the author who wrote version one?

Are the authors of the texts biased or neutral? Support your answer.

Based on the evidence, what can we tell about the author who wrote version two?

How can the perspective of the person writing an article change the facts?

Answer Key - Nonfiction: Point of View & Perspective

| Monday | Tuesday |
|---|--|
| <p>What is the main idea of both texts?</p> <p>The duel of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr.</p> | <p>According to version one, why was Burr jealous of Hamilton?</p> <p>Burr was jealous that George Washington favored Hamilton over him.</p> |
| <p>According to version one, who is to blame for Hamilton's death?</p> <p>Aaron Burr</p> | <p>According to both texts, how did Hamilton feel when Burr won the New York election against his father-in-law?</p> <p>He was upset</p> |
| <p>If you were Aaron Burr, which version would you prefer? Why?</p> <p>Version 2; This version blames Hamilton for everything.</p> | <p>Which version makes Burr seem like the "bad guy" in the New York election?</p> <p>Version one</p> |
| <p>Determine the meaning of the word circumstances in the text.</p> <p>events; conditions</p> | <p>Who eventually became vice-president?</p> <p>Aaron Burr</p> |
| Wednesday | Thursday |
| <p>According to version two, why did Hamilton insult Burr when he ran for governor of New York?</p> <p>He didn't want Burr to win.</p> | <p>Based on the evidence, what can we tell about the author who wrote version one?</p> <p>The author favors Hamilton.</p> |
| <p>Which version claims the duel was caused by Hamilton's refusal to apologize?</p> <p>version two</p> | <p>Based on the evidence, what can we tell about the author who wrote version two?</p> <p>The author favors Aaron Burr.</p> |
| <p>Would either of these articles be a good source for learning about this historical event? Why or why not?</p> <p>Probably not; they are both very different perspectives of the same event. It's hard to decide which is true.</p> | <p>Are the authors of the texts biased or neutral? Support your answer.</p> <p>They are biased. Even though their writing is based on facts, they are writing it to make one sound more at fault than the other.</p> |
| <p>Determine the meaning of the word sabotaging in the text.</p> <p>harming</p> | <p>How can the perspective of the person writing an article change the facts?</p> <p>Authors sometimes add their own opinions and feelings into what they write.</p> |