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Grade level: 8

Primary Source: *Letter from William Prescott to John Adams*, August 25, 1775. Massachusetts Historical Society. <http://www.masshist.org/bh/prescottp1text.html>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the letter accessible at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. When was this letter written? Was it before or after the battle?
2. Who wrote this letter and who is the letter addressed to?
3. How many men were sent to Breed's Hill for this battle?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Why is Prescott only able to write a brief description of the battle?
2. What did the soldiers do once they got to Breed's Hill to prepare for the battle?
3. How did the soldiers in the Continental Army react when the British began to fire?

Level III: Analysis

1. After reading his letter, how do you think Prescott felt about the men in command during the battle?
2. How would you have felt in the same situation?
3. What impressions do you get about the American troops after reading Prescott's letter?