

Sample Report



This sample is based on a student paper that was submitted to Lampstand Press. We have left in some errors, and also rearranged the paper to better reflect the proper structure for reports. This would be a “B+” paper for a strong 5th Grade writer’s rough draft, assuming the student had been following the *Tapestry* program for more than two years.

Allan Pinkerton

Allan Pinkerton was once just another Scottish immigrant who was a cooper. He became famous for discovering and capturing a gang of counterfeiters and eventually ran a detective agency in Chicago. Its motto was “We never sleep.” He solved several cases, including “The Wild Rose Greenhow Case,” and “The Molly Maguires” and “Reno Brothers.” Pinkerton even had dealings with President Lincoln and Jesse James.

Rose Greenhow was a very popular lady in Washington, D.C. who spied for the Confederacy. Mr. Pinkerton personally spied on her and gathered enough evidence to put her in prison.

“The Mollies” were an Irish Catholic group of coal miners who murdered officials in Pennsylvania. He sent one of his special detectives to infiltrate their group. This led to the leaders being convicted and hung. Another case he handled was “The Reno Brothers.” Pinkerton and his agents kidnapped the leader, and eventually, they were all in jail.

There was also a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln on his way to Washington, D.C. for his inauguration. Pinkerton went with the President-elect and, for more security, they had code names, which were “Plums” and “Nuts.” A telegram he sent read, “Plums arrived by train today with Nuts - safe.”

The Pinkerton Agency also had female agents, which was unusual. Pinkerton had a wife, Joan, and ten children, but only three, William, Joan, and Robert, lived to adulthood. Allan Pinkerton was the first famous private detective in America. He invented the term “private eye.”

Things to note:

Positives:

- *Many good facts included
- *Good variety of sentences
- *Parallelism is almost perfect (see below)
- *Interesting choice of topics

To Improve:

- *Parallelism: don't include Jesse James without following up in the body.
- *First body paragraph is too light on facts.
- *Some work needed on sentence structures throughout
- *Last paragraph may have too many details to be a good concluding one. Consider revising.