

Term Paper Outline

The Battle of Buena Vista, February 22-23, 1847: A Study

Thesis Statement: The United States victory in the Battle of Buena Vista was the result of better use of the terrain and a greater understanding of what the troops were capable of by the American commander General Zachary Taylor.

1. Introduction

- a. Briefly describe the battle
- b. Thesis Statement: The United States victory in the Battle of Buena Vista was the result of better use of the terrain and a greater understanding of what the troops were capable of by the American commander General Zachary Taylor.

2. Main Body

a. The Armies

- i. American
- ii. Mexican

b. The Battlefield

- i. Terrain
- ii. Dispositions

c. The Battle

- i. **Phase One:** Initial Mexican Attack
- ii. **Phase two:** American Defense
- iii. **Phase Three:** Final Mexican Attack
- iv. **Phase Three:** American Counterattack
- v. **Phase Four:** Mexican Retreat & Defeat

d. Reason for Victory and Defeat

- i. Mexican Loss
- ii. American Victory

3. Conclusion

- a. Restate rationale for American victory
- b. Restate thesis