

# Battle of Bull Run: Perspectives

**Directions:** *After reading "Bull Run Campaign", think about how each side may have reacted differently to this battle. Discuss the reading with a partner & complete the chart below.*

	Union	Confederacy
Expectations before the battle...		
Thoughts & Feelings after the battle...		

## **Bull Run Campaign**

Bowing to home-front pressures, Union General in Chief Winfield Scott sent Brigadier General Irvin McDowell and a poorly trained army into the war's first major battle. The intent was to push a sizable Confederate force, then in Virginia, within twenty-five miles of Washington, D.C., away from the Union capital. There was an assumption that a quick victory here-widely expected throughout the union- would help bring the war to a speedy and favorable end.

McDowell's troops, traveling slowly, left Washington on July 16- a fact that Confederate President Davis learned quickly, by telegraph. Each side maneuvered its forces toward the battleground. In addition to the troops already converging on Manassas, these forces included 12,000 Confederates under General Joseph Johnston who were facing 18,000 Union troops under General Robert Patterson near Winchester, Virginia. Johnston was able to get his army to the battlefield in time to join with Confederate General Beauregard in defeating Union General McDowell's Federals on July 21.

Forced to retreat, the Union troops soon became mixed up with civilians who had come out from Washington to watch them gain victory, and an already confusing situation turned into a disorderly retreat. The humiliating loss at Bull Run sent shock waves through the Union. The failure by the Confederate army to pursue the fleeing Union army and perhaps take Washington, incited criticism within the Confederacy at the time, and has remained a source of speculation.