Mr. Neumire Book Research Paragraph: Battle of Fredericksburg

3/17/14 4th Period

**The Battle of Fredericksburg**

Most people know that the American Civil War was full of bloody battles, but what many might not realize is that so many of those bloody fights were characterized by bold soldiers with foolish commanders (McPherson, 570). According to James McPherson, “the battle of Fredericksburg on December 13 [1862] once again pitted the great valor in the Union ranks and mismanagement by their commanders against stout fighting and effective generalship on the Confederate side” (571). On the Union side, troops were led by a commander named Burnside who decided to “surprise” Robert E. Lee by crossing a low-lying field directly in front of Lee’s men who were stationed in high ground above (McPherson, 571). McPherson claims that Lee “was surprised only by the folly of this move” (571). The bloodbath that followed became a symbol of valorous fighting undercut by terrible leadership. As one report put it, “‘It can hardly be in human nature for men to show more valor (…) or generals to manifest less judgment’” (McPherson, 572).

**Works Cited**

McPherson, James C. *The Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York: Oxford

University Press, 1988. Print.