Washington grew up on his family’s Virginia plantation and had an extraordinary beginning of his life. For example, as a young man, he decided to learn a trade as a land surveyor (Wilson, 11). A surveyor is someone who measures elevation of land, and George Washington was only sixteen years old when he set out on his first surveying expedition. Furthermore, he slept outdoors and hunted for his food which made the teenager more mature (biography.com). This maturity and sense of responsibility were the perfect qualities for a military leader.