

Historical Inquiry Mini- Task

Objective

Begin utilizing the skills of historical reading by responding to a Historical Inquiry Question, analyzing 3 related sources, and then providing an interpretation.

Topic

John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry

Historical Inquiry Question

Was John Brown a "misguided fanatic" or a champion of civil rights?

Task

1. Source Analysis- For each of the 3 sources, (John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Letter to John Brown), provide a separate paragraph that reflects your reading analysis based upon the **4 Step Historical Reading Process**:

1. Sourcing- *Who wrote it and what was their intent.*

Who wrote this, **what** is the authors (POV) point of view, **why** was it written, **when** was it written (Long or short time after the event- primary or secondary source?), Is this source **Believable/ Reliable**? Why?

2. Contextualization- **(Time/Place)**, *Imagine the Setting*

What else was going on at the time it was written? What was it like there at this time?

Compare/ Contrast- Similarities and Differences of **Past and Present**

3. Close Reading- *Claims, Evidence*

How does the author want us to feel and what words or phrases do they use to convince us they are right?

What information do they leave out or not address? (selective or neglected truth)

4. Corroboration- *Cross-Checking* (You will not be able to do this step until you have read all 3 sources.)

What do other pieces of evidence (sources) say? Am I finding the same information or different versions of the story- if so, why? Where else can I look to find out more about this?

2. Provide a 1-2 paragraph response in which you provide your interpretation (evaluation, judgment), **supported by text based evidence from the sources**, of whether you consider John Brown a "misguided fanatic" or a champion of civil rights?