

Prompt: Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

Zaid - His paper talked about violence as the thread that connected.

This was to be a one page quick write.

8th grade level

4 point grading scale

Historically factual

## summary\_grade\_report.txt

## summary\_grade\_report.txt

Following are the grades generated for 9 students, out of 9.  
Detailed feedback for these are in the pages attached.

Student ID	Q#Question#
student 801	2.0
student 802	2.5
student 803	2.0
student 804	2.0
student 805	2.0
student 806	2.0
student 807	3.0
student 808	2.0
student 809	2.0

	Q#Question#
count	9.0
mean	2.2
std	0.4
min	2.0
25%	2.0
50%	2.0
75%	2.0
max	3.0

The class generally found the questions to be of similar difficulty, with most students scoring at the lower end. There was little variation in the grades received, as shown by the small standard deviation. One student, however, achieved a notably higher score than the rest, which resulted in a slightly higher average grade for the class. Overall, the majority of the class found the questions to be relatively easy or moderate in difficulty.

## Causes of Civil War

The three most influential events to the start of the civil war were: Bleeding Kansas, The Dred Scott case, & the election of 1860. Bleeding Kansas was one of the first large incidents of violence over slavery & abolitionism. Bleeding Kansas inspired many other incidences of violence to occur which inspired the people to take arms & fight for what they believed was right. After the conclusion of the Dred Scott case, conditions worsened for African Americans in the United States because now they weren't considered citizens & had no rights. This ended causing more violence & made many people to fight for equality & justice. In the North, Abolishment & equality were popular, while in the south they weren't. This made it hard for either side to win. After the election of 1860, it was inevitable that the North would finally win, which was bad for the South. More violence & fighting was the result & eventually, Civil war.

## **b\_feedback\_801\_05-18-2023\_16-42-47.txt**

Question#: ID # 801  
Causes of Civil War

Feedback:

(a) You have done well in identifying three key events that led to the start of the American Civil War: Bleeding Kansas, the Dred Scott case, and the election of 1860. You also made an effort to connect these events by mentioning that they all contributed to increased violence and tensions between the North and the South.

(b) While your answer touches on the importance of these events, there is room for improvement in terms of factual accuracy and coverage. For example, you did not mention the specific years these events occurred. Bleeding Kansas took place from 1854 to 1861, the Dred Scott case was decided in 1857, and the election of 1860 saw Abraham Lincoln become president. Additionally, you could have provided more information on the significance of these events, such as how the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to Bleeding Kansas, and how the election of Abraham Lincoln, a Republican candidate, alarmed the Southern states, which in turn led them to secede from the Union.

(c) In terms of writing techniques, it would be helpful to have a topic sentence at the beginning of your answer that clearly states the purpose of your response. For example, you could write, "The top three events that led to the start of the American Civil War were Bleeding Kansas, the Dred Scott case, and the election of 1860, which all contributed to increased tensions and violence between the North and the South." Additionally, you should have a concluding sentence that summarizes your main points. For example, "These three events played a significant role in escalating tensions between the North and the South, ultimately leading to the outbreak of the Civil War."

(d) To improve your use of cause and effect in your writing, you should provide more specific examples of how each event contributed to the start of the Civil War. For instance, you could explain how the violence in Bleeding Kansas demonstrated the deep divide between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, how the Dred Scott decision further entrenched the divide by denying African Americans citizenship and rights, and how the election of Abraham Lincoln signaled a shift in political power that alarmed the Southern states and led to their secession.

Grade: 2

Your answer is approaching grade level expectations, but there is room for improvement in terms of factual accuracy, coverage, writing techniques, and the use of cause and effect. By addressing these areas, your response will become more comprehensive and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the events leading to the American Civil War.

ID # 802

## Influences of the Civil War

The three events that were the most influential to the start of the Civil War are the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854, the Lincoln Douglass Debate, and the election of Lincoln in 1860. First, the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854 opened up the potential for slavery in all territories with majority rule, where residents got to vote if they wanted their state to be a slave state or not. This rose tension due to disagreement and led to violent acts and harm. Next, the Lincoln Douglass Debate was a result of popular sovereignty as a highly recognized Douglass persuaded Americans to believe one side of the argument while Lincoln persuaded Americans to believe the other side, questioning if anti-slavery went against the Constitution. As Lincoln increased popularity, people in the South got word and tried to intimidate him, while others took his words into consideration. Finally, as Lincoln's popularity skyrocketed and people understood the main problem in the country, Lincoln got elected president in 1860. Not only did this result in several death threats, but it angered the people in the South to the point where they felt the need to secede from the Union, an unconstitutional act. As this went against the Constitution, the Union wrapped up an army of men, resulting in a violent battle and the start of the American Civil War.

## **b\_feedback\_802\_05-18-2023\_16-53-29.txt**

### Question#:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

### Feedback:

(a) You did a good job of identifying three events that contributed to the start of the American Civil War: the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, and the election of Lincoln in 1860. You also provided a brief explanation of each event and mentioned some of the tensions and disagreements that arose from them.

(b) However, there are some factual inaccuracies and omitted details that could be addressed. For example, you mentioned that the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to "violent acts and harm," but you could have specifically mentioned the events of "Bleeding Kansas" to give a clearer picture of the violence. Additionally, you could have elaborated on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates by mentioning that they were a series of seven debates that focused primarily on the issue of slavery. Also, it's important to note that the South's secession was not solely due to Lincoln's election but also due to a long-standing tension between the North and South over states' rights and slavery.

(c) In terms of writing techniques, you could improve your answer by using topic sentences that clearly indicate the focus of each paragraph and concluding sentences that summarize the main points. For example, you could start a paragraph with "The Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 significantly contributed to the start of the American Civil War by..." and end it with a sentence like "The act's consequences, including the violence of Bleeding Kansas, showcased the deep divisions over slavery in the United States."

(d) To better demonstrate cause and effect relationships in your writing, you could explain how each event built upon the previous one and contributed to the growing tensions between the North and South. For example, you could discuss how the Kansas-Nebraska Act led to increased sectionalism and how the Lincoln-Douglas Debates further intensified the debate on slavery in the territories. Finally, you could explain how Lincoln's election was seen as a threat by the Southern states, which ultimately led to their decision to secede.

### Grade:

2.5 (Approaching grade level expectations but with room for improvement in factual accuracy, writing techniques, and cause and effect relationships.)

## Start to the Civil War

The three most influential events to the start of the civil war are the Lincoln Douglas debate, John Brown and Harpers Ferry, and bleeding Kansas. These three events all start or lead up to some sort of violence. The Lincoln Douglas Debate boosted Lincoln's popularity which upset many pro-slavery people as many of his ideas questioned the legality of slavery. Although Lincoln lost the election for senator he would come back two years later and win the presidential election. After this, the confederate was started in retaliation and it lead to many battles. John Brown and Harpers Ferry was another influential event to the start of the civil war. After John Browns realization that slavery will never end without blood he turns to violence in hopes that others will do the same. Although he was charged with his crimes and hung he set the precedent that slavery won't end without retaliation. Bleeding Kansas was another very influential event that described the fight over whether Kansas was a free state or slave state. Violence broke out after people realized you could just visit a state and vote for if it was a slave or free state. Violence kept happening up until 1861 when Kansas entered the union as a free state. This was another event that led to the confederacy being formed and the start of the civil war.

## **b\_feedback\_803\_05-18-2023\_16-56-33.txt**

Question#:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

Feedback:

(a) You have done a good job of selecting three key events that contributed to the start of the American Civil War: the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown and Harpers Ferry, and Bleeding Kansas. You also connected these events by pointing out that they all involved or led to violence. Additionally, you provided some context for each event, such as mentioning Lincoln's rise in popularity and John Brown's belief that slavery would not end without bloodshed.

(b) While you have mentioned some key facts, there are areas where more detail or accuracy would improve your answer. For example, you stated that Lincoln lost the senatorial election but won the presidential election two years later. It would be helpful to provide the years of these events (1858 and 1860, respectively) for clarity. Additionally, it would be beneficial to mention the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which led to the conflict known as Bleeding Kansas, as it allowed settlers in those territories to decide whether or not to allow slavery. Furthermore, you could mention that the Lincoln-Douglas debates centered around this act and the concept of popular sovereignty.

(c) To improve your writing, try using more varied sentence structures and providing clear topic sentences for each paragraph. For example, your paragraph about John Brown could start with a topic sentence like, "The raid on Harpers Ferry by John Brown in 1859 was a pivotal event that demonstrated the increasing intensity of the conflict over slavery." Additionally, work on providing concluding sentences that summarize the main points of your paragraphs and tie them back to the overall question. For instance, you could conclude your paragraph on Bleeding Kansas with a sentence like, "The violent clashes in Kansas demonstrated the deep divisions between pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions and foreshadowed the upcoming Civil War."

(d) To better illustrate cause and effect relationships, focus on providing more specific details about the events you mention and their consequences. For example, you could explain that the Lincoln-Douglas debates brought national attention to the issue of slavery and the concept of popular sovereignty, which further polarized the nation and contributed to the eventual secession of Southern states. Also, explain how John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry alarmed Southerners and convinced many that a peaceful resolution to the slavery issue was impossible, pushing the country closer to war.

Grade:

2

Based on your response, I would assign a grade of 2. Your answer shows that you are approaching grade level expectations, but there are areas where you could



provide more detail, improve your writing technique, and better illustrate cause and effect relationships. Keep working on these areas, and you will be well on your way to meeting and exceeding grade level expectations.

## Civil War Events

The three events that were the most influential to the start of the Civil War are the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, and the release of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

The Compromise of 1850 was the result of a dispute between the Northern and Southern states. One of the South's requests was the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act since they wanted to keep their slaves.

The Fugitive Slave Act was passed in 1850 and ultimately forced Northerners to help the Southerners keep their slaves. They would face punishment if they disobeyed the act but many just didn't care. Harriet Beecher Stowe was among the many Northerners that intentionally chose to help runaway slaves. While she harbored slaves, she realized that many people were unaware of the treatment slaves faced, from their owners and other people. So, she chose to write and publish a book to help the public understand slave life. It was called Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Uncle Tom's Cabin was released in 1852 and it gave people a glimpse into a slave's life, because it was written from a slave's perspective. The book quickly became popular because it pulled on the heartstrings of the general public. The book was turned into a play which also became a hit. Uncle Tom's Cabin convinced many people to more openly rebel against slavery, in more ways than one.

## **b\_feedback\_804\_05-18-2023\_18-12-03.txt**

### Question#:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

### Feedback:

(a) You did a good job of identifying three key events that contributed to the start of the Civil War: the Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, and the release of Uncle Tom's Cabin. You also provided a brief overview of each event and connected them through the issue of slavery.

(b) While you touched upon significant events, the coverage of some essential details is lacking. For instance, you could have explained the specific provisions of the Compromise of 1850 and how it attempted to address the issue of slavery in newly acquired territories. Additionally, you could have mentioned the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and allowed for popular sovereignty (the right for people to decide whether they wanted slavery in their territory). This led to increased tensions between the North and the South.

(c) Your writing could benefit from improved organization and the use of topic and concluding sentences. For example, you could start by writing a topic sentence like, "The Compromise of 1850, the Fugitive Slave Act, and the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin were three key events that fueled tensions between the North and the South, ultimately leading to the American Civil War." Then, each paragraph should focus on one event and end with a concluding sentence that ties back to the common element of slavery.

(d) To show cause and effect relationships more clearly, try to incorporate specific dates, events, and consequences of each event. For example, you could discuss how the Fugitive Slave Act led to increased abolitionist activities in the North and how the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin intensified anti-slavery sentiments, further widening the divide between the North and the South.

### Grade:

2 (approaching grade level expectations)

ID#805

## Three Influential Events

Three of the most influential events toward the Civil War included Bleeding Kansas, the Lincoln Douglas Debate, and John Brown. Starting with "Bleeding Kansas", there was a disagreement involving popular sovereignty. It led to a fight of pro and anti-slavery opposing each other. This greatly foreshadows the Civil War, as both the "fight" and the war were influenced by basically the same thing.

Moving on to the Lincoln Douglas Debate, Abraham Lincoln discussed slavery and how he failed to see the logic behind it. Thousands listened to these for hours at a time, many began to see the truth and logic behind his words. This created a deeper divide between the states, raising more hostilities among each other, which, as predicted, led to tension, which finally led to the Civil War.

John Brown already predicted something like the war would happen. A famous quote he spoke went along the lines of "the crimes of this guilty land could only go away through blood". Saying this already indicated that many wouldn't be satisfied until there was a fight between them. John Brown led an attack on the South, killing many and taking hostages. As an abolitionist, his acts were perceived as a message. Pro-slavery people took this message, and kept it in thought during the Civil War.

## **b\_feedback\_805\_05-18-2023\_17-00-59.txt**

Question#:

Three Influential Events

Feedback:

(a) You have successfully identified three events that played a significant role in the lead up to the American Civil War: Bleeding Kansas, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, and John Brown's actions. It's clear that you understand their importance in shaping the conflict over the issue of slavery. Your discussion on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates illustrates how these events helped to deepen the divide between the states and increase hostilities. Similarly, your inclusion of John Brown's quote highlights the growing sentiment that the issue of slavery would not be resolved peacefully.

(b) However, there are some factual inaccuracies and missing details in your response. For example, when discussing Bleeding Kansas, you could have mentioned that it was a series of violent confrontations between pro and anti-slavery settlers in the Kansas Territory following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. Additionally, you could have provided more context on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates by noting that they were a series of seven debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas during the 1858 Illinois Senate election campaign. Lastly, when discussing John Brown, it would have been helpful to mention specific events such as his role in the Pottawatomie massacre (1856) or the raid on Harpers Ferry (1859).

(c) To improve your writing, consider using clearer topic sentences and concluding sentences. For instance, your first paragraph could begin with "Bleeding Kansas was a series of violent confrontations that demonstrated the escalating tensions between pro and anti-slavery factions in the United States." This would provide a clearer introduction to the topic and set the stage for your discussion. Similarly, your concluding sentence in the second paragraph could be rephrased as "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates further exposed the deep divisions over slavery and increased tensions between the North and South."

(d) To improve your use of cause and effect in your writing, try to connect the events you discuss to specific outcomes or consequences that led to the Civil War. For example, you could explain how Bleeding Kansas demonstrated the failure of the political process to resolve the issue of slavery and increased sectional tensions. Additionally, you could discuss how the Lincoln-Douglas Debates propelled Abraham Lincoln to national prominence, setting the stage for his election as President in 1860, which was a major factor in the secession of Southern states.

Grade:

2

ID # 806

## What caused the Civil War

The Lincoln Douglas debates, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry were pivotal events leading up to the Civil War. These events were specifically influential for the way they informed and raised ideas/questions amongst great groups of people. Uncle Tom's Cabin is known for its eye-opening story that directed focus on slavery. Uncle Tom's Cabin as well as John Brown's raid were majorly responsible for helping people recognize just how serious slavery was. For John Brown his most influential time was after he was hung. This is because it caught the attention of many people and encouraged them to fight against slavery. Fame was very crucial to the spread of slavery so seeing an abolitionist such as Abraham Lincoln almost become senator, scared the south. Lincoln questioned slavery and came extremely close to becoming senator all due to his new found power. Along with John Brown the Lincoln Douglas debates gave the south a scare which further influenced people to spread their conflicting ideas. Opposing opinions led to the wide spread of violence across the North and South which was a major motivator for the Civil War.

## **b\_feedback\_806\_05-18-2023\_17-03-39.txt**

Question#:

What caused the civil war?

Feedback:

(a) You did a good job identifying three pivotal events leading up to the American Civil War - the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin, and John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. You also effectively explained the common element connecting these events: their influence on raising awareness and sparking discussions around slavery and its implications. Additionally, you mentioned how these events scared the South, which contributed to the growing divide between the North and South.

(b) While your answer covers the general ideas behind each event, there are some factual inaccuracies and missing details. For example, you mentioned that Abraham Lincoln almost became a senator, but it's important to note that he was unsuccessful in his bid for the U.S. Senate in 1858, which is when the Lincoln-Douglas debates took place. Also, you could have mentioned the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which allowed territories to decide whether to allow slavery or not, leading to increased tensions and violence between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups.

(c) To improve your writing, consider using more specific language and providing more context for each event. For example, instead of simply stating that Uncle Tom's Cabin was an "eye-opening story," you could describe how it depicted the harsh realities of slavery and its effect on enslaved people and their families. Additionally, you could include more specific information about the Lincoln-Douglas debates, such as Lincoln's famous quote, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Also, ensure that your answer has a clear topic sentence and a concluding sentence.

(d) To better demonstrate cause and effect relationships in your writing, include more details about how each event led to the start of the Civil War. For example, you could explain how Uncle Tom's Cabin galvanized anti-slavery sentiment in the North, leading to increased support for abolitionist groups and politicians like Abraham Lincoln. Similarly, you could discuss how John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry and his subsequent execution inspired both fear in the South and admiration in the North, further polarizing the two regions.

Grade:

2 - Your answer is approaching grade level expectations. While you have identified three important events and connected them through their influence on raising awareness and sparking discussions around slavery, there is room for improvement in terms of factual accuracy, providing more context and details, and demonstrating cause and effect relationships.

## Events that Led to Civil War

Three major events of the U.S. led to the Civil War. What did they have in common? The topic of slavery. The Fugitive slave act of 1850 was a law that stated that slaves could not escape to Northern states to be free. The Fugitive slave act violated a previous law or the Compromise of 1820. The Compromise was made to balance the power in congress between slave and free states. It would not matter if a state was free since the Fugitive slave act disabled them being free. (Half of states are free and the other half are slave. (Compromise of 1820)) Uncle Tom's Cabin (1852) was a book that shared the struggles of a slave. This book created a personal and relatable story to the readers rather than a peculiar institution in the south. Uncle Tom's Cabin divided the North and South and strengthened abolitionism. People who read the book were enlightened to slavery and wanted to fight against it, to the South it was a threat to their way of life. Bleeding Kansas (1855) happened because of the Kansas Nebraska Act (1854), which opened the territory to popular sovereignty or majority vote for what they want. People for and against slavery poured into Kansas to vote whether it should be a free or slave state. Free and slave groups fought in wars against each other or North vs. South. This constant fight over slavery happened in each of these events. Creating a sentiment of North vs. South the Fugitive slave act enraged the north due to the slaves not being able to be free in free states. Uncle Tom's Cabin widened the chasm between north versus south. Fugitive slave act and Uncle Tom's Cabin led up to Bleeding Kansas, where some would argue that the Civil War has started.



## **b\_feedback\_807\_05-18-2023\_17-06-48.txt**

Question#:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

Feedback:

(a) You have provided a clear and concise answer to the question, identifying three significant events that led to the Civil War: the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1852, and Bleeding Kansas in 1855. Additionally, you have effectively connected all three events through the central theme of slavery. Your explanation of how these events mattered most in the context of the Civil War is well-developed and demonstrates a solid understanding of the topic.

(b) Overall, your answer contains accurate historical information. However, there is a minor error in stating that the Fugitive Slave Act violated the Compromise of 1820. The Fugitive Slave Act was part of the Compromise of 1850, which aimed to resolve disputes between free and slave states. The Compromise of 1820, also known as the Missouri Compromise, prohibited slavery in the Louisiana Purchase territory north of the 36° 30' parallel, except for Missouri. You could also mention the Dred Scott decision in 1857 as another significant event that further intensified the conflict between the North and the South.

(c) To improve your writing, consider using topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph to set the context and focus for the reader. For example, you could start the second paragraph with a sentence like, "The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 further inflamed tensions between the North and the South." Additionally, try to end your answer with a concluding sentence summarizing your main points and restating the importance of the three events in the context of the Civil War. For instance, "These three events, centered around the issue of slavery, significantly contributed to the growing divide between the North and South, ultimately leading to the American Civil War."

(d) You have effectively shown the cause and effect relationships between the three events and the start of the Civil War. However, you could strengthen this aspect of your answer by providing more specific details and examples. For instance, you could mention how the Fugitive Slave Act led to increased abolitionist activities in the North, as well as how the publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin influenced public opinion and political decisions related to slavery.

Grade:

3

ID # 808

## The Government's role in the fight for freedom

In the 1800s America was divided on the topic of slavery and was headed toward civil war. The government tried to prevent the oncoming war, but in the end they helped create it.

The 1850 compromise was one of the first issues that pushed the U.S. toward war. The act had completely violated the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The Missouri compromise drew a line through the middle of the U.S. that said what could be a slave state and what couldn't. The 1850 compromise created the fugitive slave act and created no slave restrictions in New Mexico and Utah. The violation of the previous act infuriated the North, and made it harder for slaves to find freedom.

In 1855 the Supreme Court voted in favor of Sanford in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case. Dred Scott believed he was unlawfully held in a free state when his master took a trip there. The Supreme Court ruled that slaves and their children couldn't be citizens. The Supreme Court faced back lash from the North as the North believed that Dred Scott was illegally held.

The election of 1860 was the final push to an all out war. Lincoln almost lost the election and the south was furious. They thought their way of life was over and decided to secede. Lincoln was forced to enact war.

to retrieve stolen federal property and  
modernize America into a country  
without slavery.

## **b\_feedback\_808\_05-18-2023\_17-09-59.txt**

Question#:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

Feedback:

(a) You did a good job identifying three key events that contributed to the start of the American Civil War: the 1850 Compromise, the Dred Scott v. Sanford case, and the election of 1860. Your answer provided context for each event and touched upon their significance in escalating tensions between the North and the South.

(b) While you covered the basics of each event, there are some factual inaccuracies and missing details. First, the term "1850 Compromise" is incorrect; it should be "Compromise of 1850." Additionally, the Compromise of 1850 did not create the Fugitive Slave Act but rather strengthened it. The Compromise of 1850 included several elements, such as California's admission as a free state and the popular sovereignty principle in the Utah and New Mexico territories. Furthermore, it would be helpful to mention that the Dred Scott v. Sanford decision also stated that Congress could not regulate slavery in the territories, which further angered the North. Lastly, you could mention the specific states that seceded following Lincoln's election.

(c) To improve your writing, consider adding topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph to introduce the event you will discuss. Additionally, include concluding sentences to summarize the importance of each event in relation to the Civil War. For example, you could start the paragraph about the Compromise of 1850 with: "The Compromise of 1850 was a turning point in the debate over slavery, as it intensified the divide between the North and the South." After discussing the details, conclude with: "This compromise represented the growing inability of the U.S. government to find a lasting solution to the slavery issue."

(d) To better illustrate cause and effect, you could explain how each event led to further division and ultimately to the outbreak of the Civil War. For example, you could mention that the Fugitive Slave Act's enforcement caused increased tension by forcing Northerners to aid in the capture of runaway slaves. Additionally, discuss how the Dred Scott decision effectively removed any hope for a political compromise on slavery, pushing the nation closer to conflict. Finally, explain that Lincoln's election led to the secession of several Southern states, which directly triggered the Civil War.

Grade:

2 (Approaching grade level expectations)

ID# 809

## Civil War

The Lincoln Douglas debates, John Brown, and the election of 1860 all lead to the Civil War. To start, the debates between Abe Lincoln and Douglas is what made Lincoln an important, and well known political figure. To add on, Lincoln used logic and reasoning in the constitutionality of slavery to construct an argument. As people began to listen to Lincoln, more people understood what he was trying to say. Sadly, Douglas won, but Lincoln still created worry in Southerners. Three years later, in 1859, a man named John Brown, who was one of the listeners at the debates, began to emerge. His main goal was to create slave revolts throughout the South to put panic and fear in Southerners. To help achieve this goal, he raided a river arsenal to get weapons. Eventually, he got captured and was hanged, meaning he died for his beliefs and a cause. Finally, in 1860, Lincoln won the presidential election. This was the biggest contributor to the Civil War. This is obviously because he was an abolitionist, which Southerners didn't want as a president. So, most Southern states broke off and became the Confederacy. The Lincoln Douglas debates made Lincoln a political figure, and brought people's attention to slavery. John Brown created slave revolts, angering the South and bringing more people's attention to slavery. And finally, Lincoln winning the election after becoming a popular candidate also sparked the anger in Southerners, leading to the Civil War. But all three of these people and events are connected through one main cause: getting people's attention, to help act against, and hopefully end slavery.

## **b\_feedback\_809\_05-18-2023\_18-00-43.txt**

qQuestion#1:

Select the top three most influential events which led to the start of the American Civil War. Connect all three events with a common element so we can see why these three events mattered most.

Feedback:

(a) You identified the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's actions, and the election of 1860 as the top three most influential events leading to the Civil War. You also connected these events with a common element: getting people's attention to help act against and hopefully end slavery. This shows an understanding of the topic and the ability to make connections between events.

(b) While you mention the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's actions, and the election of 1860, you could have provided more factual information and context for each event. For example, you could have specified that the Lincoln-Douglas debates occurred in 1858 during the Illinois Senate race and that John Brown raided the Harpers Ferry arsenal in Virginia. Additionally, while you mention that Southern states broke off and formed the Confederacy, you could have expanded on the secession process and the formation of the Confederate States of America.

(c) To improve your writing, consider using a topic sentence to introduce your answer and a concluding sentence to summarize your main points. For example, you could start with: "The American Civil War was triggered by a series of events, including the Lincoln-Douglas debates, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, and the election of 1860." At the end, you could add a concluding sentence: "In conclusion, these three events were influential in leading to the Civil War because they drew attention to the issue of slavery and fueled tensions between the North and the South."

(d) To improve your use of cause and effect, you could explain how each event contributed to the escalating tensions between the North and the South. For example, you could explain that the Lincoln-Douglas debates highlighted the divide between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry intensified the fear and distrust between the two sides, and the election of 1860 resulted in the secession of Southern states, ultimately leading to the Civil War.

Grade: 2

Your answer is approaching grade level expectations. You identified the main events and connected them with a common element, but you could have provided more factual information and context, as well as improved your use of cause and effect relationships.