

American History 8
Portfolio Assignment #1
Chapter 15 -- Causes of the Civil War

Scenario: We know there is no one cause of the Civil War. That's why all these different causes get their own chapter!!! But certainly, real historians and amateurs alike all have our own opinions as to which were **the most important**. Well, by use of the time machine, you have been able to travel back to see America firsthand between 1850 (Fugitive Slave Law) and 1860 (Election of Lincoln). And now your job --

Assignment: It is now late in April of the year 1861 and the Civil War has recently begun with the firing on Fort Sumter. Your job is to sit down and interview both a northern Republican and a southern plantation owner about their views on what has happened in America over the last 10 years. **WARNING: DISCUSSION MAY GET HEATED!!!** Within the interview / argument (you will be asking the questions) both the northern and southern panelists should clearly point out **and explain what they personally believe are the three most key causes** for why our nation is now at war. **THEY MIGHT NOT AGREE OVER WHICH CAUSES WERE MOST IMPORTANT (IN OTHER WORDS, THEY MAY HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS ON WHICH EVENTS COVERED BY CHAPTER 15 PLAYED THE LARGEST PART IN EVENTUALLY LEADING THEIR SECTION OF THE NATION TO WAR WITH THE OTHER).**

Requirements / Directions:

1. Interview must be typed, single spaced, size 12 font, no larger than one inch margins, with a line skipped between speaking parts

Ex: Me: "Today, I have here with me Mr....and Mr....Lets discuss..."

Northerner: "blablablablablabla...Fugative Slave Act!...
blablablablablabla!!!"

Southerner: "blablablablablabla...John Brown's Raid...
blablablablablabla!!!"

2. Approximately 1 to 1 ½ pages (typed – 2 pages is OK!) in length plus visual content.
3. **MUST INCLUDE VISUALS WHICH RELATE TO THE CAUSES BEING DISCUSSED (USE BOOKS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, INTERNET, AND YOUR TEXTBOOK IF ALL ELSE FAILS". Use "real" primary source visuals and NOT clipart or self drawn pictures. You need a minimum of 3 such visuals.**
4. You will be graded on your creativity, originality, use of visual content and accuracy of historical content.