

Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: High School (9-10)
Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.RH.9-10.6 - Compare the point of view of two or more authors for how they treat the same or similar topics, including which details they include and emphasize in their respective accounts.
 CCSS.RH.9-10.1 - Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

Library of Congress Resources:



King & Baird, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1864 (Broadside- Is it peace or war? The Chicago Platform.)

<http://www.loc.gov/item/scsm000267/>

Specific Pages Used:

<http://www.loc.gov/resource/lprbscsm.scsm0267/>

Topic Background:

The Democratic Party was bitterly split between the War Democrats and the Peace Democrats. War democrats supported the continuation of the war and restoration of the Union but Peace democrats declared the war to be a failure and favored an immediate end to hostilities without securing Union victory.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/item/2008661651/>

Source Used:

The source used for this assessment includes excerpts from two of democrat candidates McClellan, a representative of war democrats, and Pendleton, a representative of peace democrats. McClellan supported the continuation of the war and restoration of the Union, but Pendleton was opposed to this position.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – B
 Question 2 – D

IS IT PEACE OR WAR? THE CHICAGO PLATFORM

“Resolved, That this Convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities, with a view to an ultimate Convention of all the States, or other peaceable means, to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union.

The Chicago Candidates

McClellan

Such a rebellion cannot be justified upon ethical grounds and the only alternative for our choice are its suppression of our nationality. Shall it be said after ages that we lacked the vigor to complete the work thus begun? That after these noble lives freely given, we hesitated and failed to keep straight on till our land was saved.

WEST POINT ORATION June, 15th, 1864

“I could not look in the face of my gallant comrades of the Army and the Navy, who have survived so many bloody battles, and tell them that their labors, and the sacrifice of so many of our slain and wounded brethren had been in vain.”

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE Sept, 8th 1864

Pendleton

Now, sir, what force of arms can compel a State to do what she agreed to do? What force of arms can compel a state to refrain from doing that which her State Government, supported by sentiment of her people, is determined to persist in doing? Sir, the whole scheme of coercion is impracticable. It is contrary to the genius and spirit of the constitution.

Let the seceding State depart in peace; let them establish their government and empire, and work out their destiny according to the wisdom which god has given them”

SPEECH IN CONGRESS JAN, 18th, 1861

“Democrats can you tell whether you are asked to vote for PEACE OR WAR, UNION OR DISUNION?”

QUESTIONS:

1) Based on the primary sources, which statement best states McClellan and Pendleton support of war? (CCSS.RH.9-10.6)

- A. Both McClellan and Pendleton supported the continuation of the war and restoration of the Union.
- B. McClellan supported the continuation of the war and restoration of the Union, but Pendleton was opposed to this position
- C. Pendleton supported the continuation of the war and restoration of the Union, but McClellan was opposed to this position
- D. Both McClellan and Pendleton did not support the continuation of the war.

2) Which quotations from the source best support the answer in Question 1? (CCSS.RH.9-10.1)

- A. **McClellan:** “Such a rebellion can not be justified”
Pendleton: “what force of arms can compel a State to do what she agreed to do?”
- B. **McClellan:** “we hesitated and failed to keep straight on till our land was saved.”
Pendleton: “what force of arms can compel a State to do what she agreed to do?”
- C. **McClellan:** “Such a rebellion can not be justified”
Pendleton: “What force of arms can compel a state to refrain from doing that which her State Government, supported by sentiment of her people, is determined to persist in doing?”
- D. **McClellan:** “Shall it be said after ages that we lacked the vigor to complete the work thus begun?”
Pendleton: “the whole scheme of coercion is impracticable. It is contrary to the genius and spirit of the constitution. Let the seceding State depart in peace?”