

## Thematic Essay Question

*Directions:* Write a well organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

### Theme: Sectionalism

Sectionalism is defined as loyalty to the interests of one's own region or area of nation rather than the nation as a whole. Sectionalism and regional differences became an important concern in United States politics in the years leading to the Civil War. Different perspectives concerning constitutional, political, economic, and social issues contributed to the growth of sectionalism from 1800 - 1861; ultimately contributing to the secession of various states, the formation of the Confederate States of America, and the start of the American Civil War.

### Task:

Choose three examples of sectionalism. For each:

- *Describe* the example in detail
- *Evaluate* to what extent this example of the sectionalism was a cause of or led to the American Civil War

Some suggestions you may wish to consider:

- Economies of the North, South, and West & differences
- Tariffs: Tariff of 1816, Tariff of 1824, Tariff of 1828 (tariff of abominations), Tariff of 1832
- Slavery: Northwest Ordinance, Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, Kansas Nebraska Act, Annexation of Texas, Abolitionist movement in the North
- Issues of representation in Congress & the Electoral College
- States Rights (Nullification Crisis of 1832, Dred Scott Case)
- Election of 1860

*You are not limited to these suggestions.*

### Guidelines:

#### **In your essay, be sure to:**

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear path of organization, including an introduction and conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

***In developing your answer to this task, keep in mind the following definitions:***

- describe*** means "to illustrate something in words or tell about it"
- evaluate*** means to "examine and judge the significance, worth, or condition of; to determine the value of "

**Prewriting Chart: Thematic Essay**

| <p><i>Example #1: In this box, list the example of sectionalism you will discuss first.</i></p> | <p><i>Example #2: In this box, list the example of sectionalism you will discuss second.</i></p> | <p><i>Example #3: In this box, list the example of sectionalism you will discuss third.</i></p> |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Describe the example in detail</i></p>  |  |   |
| <p><i>To what extent did this example cause or lead to the Civil War?</i></p>                   |  |   |

## Prewriting Outline

### Introduction:

### Body Paragraph #1: Sectionalism Example #1: \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the example in detail:

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- To what extent did this example of sectionalism cause the Civil War?:

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### Body Paragraph #2: Sectionalism Example #2: \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the example in detail:

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- To what extent did this example of sectionalism cause the Civil War?:

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### Body Paragraph #3: Sectionalism Example #3: \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the example in detail:

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- To what extent did this example of sectionalism cause the Civil War?:

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**Conclusion:**

[A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed border, intended for writing a conclusion.]