

Part A- Reflect on War with Mexico characters

Look over the “War with Mexico” questions handout that you completed last class by talking to 8 other historical “characters”. In 1 paragraph, answer:

What differences in perspective or opinion did you come across, and how did these perspectives relate to your character? Give at least 3 specific examples in your response.

[If you were absent on Mon/Tue, you won’t be able to do this. Write “Absent” and move on to the next section”.] (5 pts)

Now read “We Take Nothing By Conquest, Thank God” by Howard Zinn

Part B- “Talk-Back” Journal

Find three passages from the text that you found amusing, important, startling, moving, confusing, or odd. Write out each quote and your detailed reaction to it. Then, write two questions you would like to discuss with the rest of the class. (8 pt)

Part C- Guiding Questions - Answer the following on a separate sheet of paper as you read the Zinn article.

1. Why did the U.S. government want to obtain California? (1 pt)
2. What is meant by the term Manifest Destiny? (1 pt)
3. What were the pressures on the United States government to push for expansion? (1 pt)
4. a.) What were Abraham Lincoln’s “spot resolutions” (1 pt)
b.) Re-read Abraham Lincoln’s quote on p. 41. Lincoln believes that even though Whigs opposed the war before it began, that once the war began they should allocate money to support the war. Explain why you agree or disagree. (1 pt)
5. Comment on the belief of some Americans: *The Mexican War was a good thing, because it gave the blessings of liberty and democracy to more people.* (2 pt)
6. Why was the American Anti-Slavery Society opposed to the Mexican-American War? (1 pt)
7. In his essay “On Civil Disobedience”, Henry David Thoreau writes that what is *legal* is not necessarily what is *right*. Do you agree? Can you think of any examples from history or current events? (2 pt)
8. Choose one of the primary sources quoted on pp. 16-19. What is the origin of that source? How does this person describe the war? What unique perspective do we gain access to by reading that source? (3pt)
9. Why might ordinary citizens – workers or farmers, with no slaves and no plans to move onto Mexican territory – support the U.S. war against Mexico? Does war itself hold attraction for people, or was it the Mexican War in particular that excited some Americans? (2 pt)