***Central Historical Question:***

***Was John Brown a “misguided fanatic?”***

***John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry shocked and polarized the country. In the North, bells rang; many speeches condemning slavery; Brown considered a martyr. In the South, slave owners were horrified that the raid almost succeeded; more convinced that they can’t live in the United States.***

**DIRECTIONS: Read documents A, B, and C. Answer the analysis questions for each document to help you determine if Brown was/wasn’t a “misguided fanatic.”**

**Document A:**

John Brown delivered this speech on the last day of his trial, after hearing the jury pronounce him guilty. He knew he would be sentenced to die. Given that context, what does this speech say about him as a person?

| I think that his speech was about his passion for freeing the slaves. He wanted to believe what he believed in till the day he dies, that he will stand up for what he believes in. |
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Based on this document, do you think John Brown was a “misguided fanatic?” Why or why not?

| I think that John Brown was a misguided fanatic in the document. This is because in his last statements, he says that slavery is a disgrace on God, and he will be the punisher to the people with slavery. Also, he thinks that country is overrun by slavery. |
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**Document B:**

What are two reasons why Douglass opposed John Brown’s plan to raid Harper’s Ferry?

| Douglass opposed John Brown because if he does this the Nation would turn against the abolitionists, and John Brown would be going into a trap, and it is fatal. |
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Douglass’s account is written in 1881, twenty-two years after the raid. Do you trust his account? Why or why not?

| I think his account is trusted, because Douglass is a trusted source, however because it’s 22 years ago, he might have forgotten some stuff. |
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Based on this document, do you think John Brown was a “misguided fanatic?” Why or why not?

| I think that John was a misguided fanatic. This is because he thinks that taking Harper’s Ferry, it will be like some wake up call to all of the rest of slavery, He thinks that all the slaves would just automatically rise up, however most would be too scared to do that I think. |
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**Document C:**

Is L. Maria Child pro or anti-slavery? How do you know?

| I think she’s anit-slavery, however she’s more of a talk over action. She wants a peaceful way to end slavery, this is because in the second paragraph she said that she can’t sympathize with his methods. |
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Based on this document, does Child think John Brown is a “misguided fanatic?” Give two reasons to support your answer.

| I think that Child thinks that John Brown isn't a misguided fanatic. This is because in the second paragraph of the letter, it states even though she doesn’t believe in what John Brown did. However, she can see what John Brown has been through, see his “cruel loss”. Another reason why I believe that John Brown isn’t a misguided fanatic is that, she praised god onto him, and wants to speak to him with words that can comfort him. |
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