

Quarter 2 AICE US Midterm

b

Sources A and B are in support of the central claim that the caning of Sumner was a disaster for the South. However, source C and D are arguably against the claim that demonizes the actions of Senator Brooks.

Source B is a newspaper article that exemplifies a neutral standpoint on the matter pertaining to the fact that the caning of Sumner was a disaster. In the opening lines of "no meaner exhibition of Southern cowardice" it is clear of the perspective of the newspaper (Northern) is against the events that had just occurred. Upon closer inspection, however, the closing lines of "we are either to have liberty or slavery" implies the foundation of the North and its morals: not anti-South, but anti-slavery. From the very beginning, the end goal of the countless documents written and passed wasn't to divide the United States, but to improve it for the common man by abolishing slavery. In the lines "generally miscalled Southern slavery" it is apparent that the source is aware of its apparent bias with the usage of irony to describe the caning of Sumners. Upon further examination of the source itself, it is clear that it is some sort of newspaper clipping, which alludes that some of the content in the article may be overexaggerated, whether it is for selling more copies or appealing to the general public by apparently demonizing the South. When gauging the importance of this document in terms of the question as to whether or not the caning of Sumners was a disaster for the South, it is apparent that it is the strongest source available, regardless of side. It is a much stronger source than A even though they agree, but the main difference is that B is a mere extension of the idea that A presents and is thus more useful to answer the prior question. When gauging the importance of Source B in relevance to whether or not the caning was a disaster for the South, the objective, neutral standpoint of the source is critical to formulating a higher argument for the topic of the controversy surrounding the South and Brooks' actions.

Source A is in agreement with the question as to whether or not the caning of Sumners was a disaster to the south. The content consists of a cartoonists' reimagining of the moment Brooks beat Sumners to near death during a hearing. The background is that Sumners mocked Brooks and/or the South to the point where words turned into reality. Southern congressional figures defended Brook's as the assault took place. Sumners was completely immobilized by this attack and was never the same after his hospitalization. The caption on the actual drawing goes as "Southern Chivalry- Argument Versus Club's". Southern chivalry is an example of verbal irony that calls attention to the immature and nearly depraved actions of the South in an attempt to defend their bare dignity. Argument Versus Club's means that Sumners words meant nothing as he was beat senseless by a walking stick, creating another example of irony, but this time, situational. While Sumner holds a quill (the pen) Brooks holds a cane (the sword), so even if the words that Sumner 'writes' are correct, brute force will always be the victor. The cartoonist most likely illustrated it in this fashion to shed an unholy light on the truth of the South and their spoken-not-practiced ideals and morals. In elaboration, the resent that the South held for the North was put on full display in something that could turn more than just heads. While an example of political cartoons (like Source A) could be biased and exaggerated for further aesthetic and vested interest, it isn't overly exaggerated and sends a powerful message about the

truth of the South: an arid alliteration; The Self-Destructive South. Source A isn't nearly as powerful as the contents of source B, but it is important nevertheless to supporting the notion that the actions of Senator Brooks were a disaster for the South.

In contrast to the previously discussed sources that SUPPORT the question of if the caning of Senator Sumner was a disaster to the South, source C clearly disagrees with this idea. Source C is yet again another newspaper that was published on May 27, 1856. Its contents are depicted in a very informal tonnage that sounds more like a grade-school newspaper rather than a local, professional newspaper. In the lines "immediately upon...a most enthusiastic meeting was convened in the town of Newberry." The positive language of the writing is evidence to consider the contents of Source C to be in complete denial as to the true reality of the caning. They held no remorse for their actions and actually celebrated it like it was some sort of holiday. Additionally, the lines "the meeting voted... a handsome gold-headed cane" as if their intentions to publicly celebrate weren't raucous enough. The general public of South Carolina rewarded Brooks with a gold headed cane upon his return to his new fame. Furthermore, the lines "enjoyments as the happiest laborers on the face of the globe." Refer to the slaves being held against their will. This line alone is enough to dismiss it as a strong source to argue the other side. This is because it lacks the objectivity that source B does in its attempts to crown Brooks rather than punish him for his situational actions. When examining the importance of this source as it appears, it argues that the caning wasn't exactly a disaster, more of a pseudo-victory that went unpunished. In relevance to the sister source that argues nearly a similar argument, it is the weaker of the two because it contains very little factual information on the outcomes of the caning rather than the celebrations of it.

Moreover, source D is in delusional denial of the claim that the caning of Sumner was a disaster for the South. While it is a northern source, (Boston Post) it doesn't necessarily support the idea that the caning was a disaster for the South, instead it portrays it nearly as a sign to step up and fight back. In the phrase "patriotic citizens" the vocabulary that they are using to describe the reader suggest that the North believes they are on some sort of moral high horse, and that Brooks actions are proof of this superiority. Following that is "consider this example of all the mad resolutions which turned up yesterday." The newspaper is essentially asking the reader to digest the severity and ruthlessness of the caning. In tandem with the overwhelming evidence is the idea that the article was published in June 3, 1856 as the event happened closer to May 23, 1856. This significant gap in time is proof that the general public was shocked at the reality of the situation. This article serves to stir the pot of emotions that the South prepared for them- hot and ready. In discussion as to the significance of the source as a whole for this particular argument, it is more important than source C because it at least acknowledges the South and their actions, while C mostly details the southern perspective of the following events that occurred after the caning. While both of source C and D may be riddled in logical fallacies (bias, vested interest, etc.) they serve to support the rather positive idea of the caning rather than the negative.

The sources as a collection are organized from strongest to the weakest. Source B is the strongest because it presents a very formal and objective discussion of the events that occurred from a rather reductionist standpoint. Someone was beat senseless by a cane for little to no reason, therefore it is tragic, regardless of beliefs. The second strongest source is A; the artistic depiction (which is different than most political art because it isn't nearly as over exaggerated as other

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ones in the past) serves a clean-cut image of what happened. While it is obvious that it is from the Northern side, it utilizes very specific vocabulary that is relevant to both the North and the South. Source C and D are very similar despite holding fire-and-ice opinions. Due to the date of publication for each of them, it could be inferred that source D was written in response of Source C. Its language and content nearly mirror the structure of C, painting it as more of a question/answer document rather than a newspaper article. The main similarity between them being that there were traces of emotionally charged sentences, which is why they are of equal strength; no one being better than the other.

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