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Period 3

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Senator Sumner's 1856 speech revealed an unbridgeable division between the north and south.

By 1856, the Union was on the verge of separation and war, by this time Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Compromise of 1850, and the Kansas Nebraska Act, had deepened the crack between the north and south. Senator Sumner's speech to the US senate furthered the divide in the nation and created seemingly endless backlash. According to Source's A, B, and E Senator Sumner's speech revealed an unbridgeable division between the north and the south. Source's C and D however refute the claim that Senator Sumner's speech revealed a divide between the north and south. Source A supports the claim that Senator Sumner's speech to the US Senate revealed an unbridgeable division between the north and the south.

Source A supports the claim that Senator Sumner's 1856 speech revealed an unbridgeable division between the north and south. Source A is an excerpt from Sumner's actual speech to the US Senate; making Source A the pivotal source all the other documents are based on however Sumner's overly dramatic accusations and opinions make his argument repetitive. The information Sumner presents is extremely anti-south and anti-southern, he refuses to acknowledge or look at things from the South's perspective and relentlessly scolds them for their barbaric culture. Sumner targets South Carolina especially their Senator Andrew Butler, exemplifying him to be the poster-child of slavery and because he is supposedly such an advocate for slavery Butler and the rest of the south are the reason as to why the Union is crumbling. Source A, C, and E all support that Sumner's speech exposed the division of the states but they all give different moments as the revelation of the divide. Source A puts the realization of division as when the south became so barbaric and attached to slavery, Sources B and E show that when southern Congressman Preston Brooks attacked Sumner as the moment where the divide between north and south was unleashed.

Source E like Source A supports the claim that Senator Sumner's 1856 speech revealed an unbridgeable division between the north and south. Source E is a modern historian's view on the Sumner incident and is an excellent source because not only does it acknowledge the event from both sides, but it also is written so far after the event that bias opinions are not an issue. The information presented is neutral with no leniency, it acknowledges the feelings of both the north and the south after Sumner's speech. While the historian doesn't directly say Sumner's speech revealed the division of the north and south, his inclusion of the north and south attitudes prove that Sumner was right in his claim that the Union was thoroughly divided. Sources A and E share the topic of Sumner's speech while Source A is an excerpt from the speech Source E gives the analysis of what effect Sumner's words will have in further dividing the nation.

and B, C, D

CR-2

Source B also supports the claim that Senator Sumner's speech to the US senate revealed the unbridgeable division between the north and south. The document comes from the New York Herald, a newspaper from a northern state that is eager to incorporate their own views on the event. While the information provided by the newspaper seems relatively neutral, the inclusion of "this affair is regretted by all" however is where the northern view point comes in. Source E had stated that Brook's actions had confirmed northern opinion that southerners were more than willing to resort to violence, and the New York Herald reflects that opinion in their article. Sources A and B are both northern opinions on current events in the Union while Source A centralizes its focus on the division Source B focuses on the splash Congressman Brooks made by attacking Senator Sumner.

Source D refutes the claim that Senator Sumner's speech to the US senate revealed the unbridgeable division between the north and south and rather the divide was already approaching. Source D is from ~~high power senator~~ ^{newspaper} Stephen Douglas as part of his election campaign for the 1860 Presidential spot, which means what Douglas is saying is probably not his full belief but rather what he thinks the people want to hear. Douglas proposes that the Union was built on the freedoms that if a state wants to leave the Union they have the full right to do so. Douglas continues that if Free States just left southern states alone than the separation of the Union would not be as big of an issue as everyone has turned it into. Source D and Source A both come from powerful, northern politicians, yet both have different views on what should happen now that the Union is on the verge of dividing. Both Source s B and D are northern opinions but the opinions they give are on two different situations so the comparisons that can be made between them are minimal. Similar to Source B, Sources C and D are differing opinions of a northerner and a southerner, but because these documents talk about two different situations the comparisons that can be made between them consequently don't work.

Source C refutes the claim that Senator Sumner's speech to the US senate revealed the unbridgeable division between the north and south. Source C is from the Richmond Enquirer, a southern paper written less than a week after Sumner's speech which means anger is still fresh and opinions are angry. Source C like Source B is from a newspaper and both are written less than a week after the speech, but both have opposite interpretations of the aftermath of Sumner's speech. The information presented is very opinionated and fuming at what Sumner said to the Senate, stating that Sumner was nothing more than a closed minded coward, while the writer is showing off how close minded he is. The reason Source C contends Sumner's speech is because the blame is not put on just Sumner, it is put on all northern abolitionists for mistreating southerners. Sources C and A completely contradict each other in the aspect of who the bad guy is, Source A firmly believes the south is the cause of all of America's problems while Source C blames northern abolitionists for not being able to mind their own business. Source E and Source C both look at Brooks attack on Sumner while Source E only acknowledges their feelings of the event, Source E looks at both sides.

(1)-3