Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

5.07 Mexican-American War

Total Points: 30

# ****Was the War Justified?****

**We’re going to analyze some primary source documents, evaluate the arguments for and against the Mexican-American War, and determine whether it was justified.**

**But don’t worry! You’ll be doing this part together with your classmates!**

1. **Open the Mexican-American War: Primary Source Documents PDF linked on the Task page.**
2. **As you read, think about the question:** Is the United States’ war with Mexico justified?
3. **Identify a passage from each primary source related to this question. On the Primary Source Documents PDFs, a few noteworthy passages have been highlighted for you, but you should analyze the entirety of each excerpt. You can choose any relevant passage!**
4. **Based on your selected passage, answer: Is the United States' war with Mexico justified? Indicate “yes” or “no” and explain why. [There is a place for your responses below.]**
5. **Here’s where your collaboration with classmates comes in.** 
   1. **Post your responses for all 4 documents to the 5.07 War Discussion.**
   2. **Read over your classmates’ posts.**
   3. **Then, use your work and their work to form a final opinion and explain it below.**

# ****How to Analyze a Document****

**Here’s how to analyze a document, like a primary source. A primary source is an immediate, first-hand account of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. It could be an artifact, diary, manuscript, autobiography, etc. In this activity, the primary sources we will be looking at speeches, articles, and other documents written by people while they were involved in Mexican-American War.**

1. When you analyze, you focus on small parts of the passage to better understand the whole thing – the same way you learn a dance by looking at the individual steps.
2. As you read, keep an open mind.
   1. You want to examine all of the evidence before making up your mind.
   2. Don’t begin as if you are out to prove just one answer.
   3. Consider all the points being made – even those you might disagree with at first.
3. First, read to understand the document. As you read, ask yourself these questions:
   1. Does this statement support or build on a point in any of the other documents?
   2. Does this argue the other side of any of those points?
   3. Does this passage tell you something important about the author’s point of view?
   4. How do you feel about the argument made in this passage?
   5. Do you agree? Disagree? Have mixed feelings?
4. Find a sentence or two that might help you answer the question or prompt – one way or another.
5. The final step is to explain the passages in your own words and show how they might answer the focus question.

# ****Your Responses****

**Write your first draft analysis for each document. Be sure indicate the passage you selected in each document, indicate “yes” or “no” to the question “Is the United States' war with Mexico justified?”, and explain your answer.**

* **Document #1 Passage:**
  + **Answer (Yes or No):**
  + **Explanation:**
* **Document #2 Passage:**
  + **Answer (Yes or No):**
  + **Explanation:**
* **Document #3 Passage:**
  + **Answer (Yes or No):**
  + **Explanation:**
* **Document #4 Passage:** 
  + **Answer (Yes or No):**
  + **Explanation:**

**Go to the 5.07 War Discussion and post your responses.**

# ****Classmates Collaboration****

**Read over your classmates’ responses.**

* **Did others use different passages than you?**
* **Did others draw different conclusions?**

# ****Final Reflection****

**Has reading your classmates’ posts on the discussion board changed your mind?**

**Write a final response to the question, “Is the United States’ war with Mexico justified?” in at 4-5 sentences. Cite evidence from the primary source documents in your argument. You can use evidence and reasonings from your classmates to help craft your response.**

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| --- |
| ***Write your response below:*** |
|  |