

Texts

1. In your groups, take turns reading the Harpers Ferry text you received.
2. Summarize what happened using a bulleted list to *briefly* explain the key events and people described.
3. Share what you found with the class to determine what happened at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia in October, 1959.
4. Take turns reading the historical text you received. Discuss how this document characterizes John Brown. Find four words used to describe John Brown. How do these words compare with the words your group used to characterize the image of John Brown that you analyzed?
5. Read the text again closely, making note of the arguments the author makes and the evidence used to support those arguments, as well as specific words or phrases that help shape the meaning and tone of the arguments.
6. Look at the bibliographic information. What can you learn about the text and the author from that information? What else would you like to know about the text, the author, or both?
7. Repeat steps 4-6 with the contemporary text you received.
8. Review the texts to compare and contrast the characterizations of John Brown made by each source. In what ways are they alike or different?
9. Refer back to the texts to compare and contrast the arguments made by each source. In what ways are the arguments alike or different? Which text makes a more forceful argument? Why?
10. Team up with representatives from each of the other groups and relay the findings of your text analyses.
11. As a group, identify John Brown's cause, then debate the following question: Based on your analyses of the texts, was John Brown justified in his actions at Harper Ferry in service of his cause? Why or why not? What other information might help you to answer this question more conclusively?
12. Share your group's deliberations in a whole class discussion.