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The Civil War

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The American Revolution was a pivotal moment in our nation's history. It was the very beginning. It was the birth of an entirely new breed of country. A country based off thirteen colonies, finally independent from the ideologies and policies of Great Britain. However along with this independence came grave responsibility. Little did the founding fathers know, along with this independence and freedom, they would forever face trials and tribulations amongst the citizens when creating laws and the government that would forever bound the country together as one.

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The ultimate factor and initial motivation to create the United States of America was freedom. The freedom of having different political, religious and social views. However, shortly after the Revolution it was clear to see that this freedom would have its down falls and that the different views of the citizens would soon clash. The price of freedom soon turned into slavery for others, the exact opposite of what America stood for. It had not even been 100 years since declaring their independence, and the USA was already on the brink of another war, but this time a Civil War.

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Slavery was the main factor in the division of the young country of the United States of America. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president, his pledge to demolish slavery angered the south into forming it's own nation called the Confederacy, leaving the north that called themselves the Union. It was officially torn in two on April 12, 1861 between the Union and the Confederacy at Fort Sumter beginning The Civil War (Civil War Facts). Fast forward four years and the Confederacy surrendered to the Union causing significant changes within the country's constitution. First and foremost, the most important amendment since the Bill of Rights was added to the constitution: the 13th

1 Amendment, which forbade and abolished slavery within the United States. Later
2 succeeding the 13th Amendment was the 14th Amendment, which stated:

3 *All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the*
4 *jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State*
5 *wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall*
6 *abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor*
7 *shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due*
8 *process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal*
9 *protection of the laws* (Constitutional Amendments).

10 Last but not least, the 15th amendment was added after the Civil war which gave the
11 citizens of the United States the right to vote and the protection to never be denied this
12 right despite race, color or status (Constitutional Amendments).

13 However the 14th Amendment is still of utmost important when dealing with
14 Constitutional issues during today's era. For example, homosexuals right's to marriage.
15 Like slavery, homosexual rights are vague within the Constitution. Many states have
16 bans or have lifted bans but on a federal stand point there is a huge debate on whether
17 these bans violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment (Gay Rights and
18 the Constitution). It is amazing that even though the 14th Amendment was created over
19 138 years ago and it still plays a vital role in protecting the rights of American citizens of
20 today. As the abolitionists banded together against slavery, so did many citizens in
21 support of gay rights. I believe that eventually there will be a constitutional amendment,
22 like the 13th Amendment, banning slavery that will officially protect homosexual rights.

1 Having a unified democracy and government authority has its pros and its cons.
2 As a citizen of the United States of America, I feel as though the pros outweigh the cons
3 any day. I feel like our governmental system gives me the hope and freedom that with
4 enough action and motivation that anything is possible. The Civil War was a tragic time
5 but along with it came amazing change that helped shape the future of this country. It is
6 a perfect example that in order to have a present and future we must learn from our past.
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Bibliography

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Work Sample Evaluation

Subject Area: U.S. History

Task Title: How Much Unity in These States?

Student Work Sample Title: The Civil War

The document was scored using the *CCR Task Bank Rubric*. The final scores are indicated in the following chart.

Scoring Criteria	Insufficient Evidence	Developing	Progressing	Accomplished	Exceeds
Research and Investigation				X	
Ideas and Content		X			
Reading and Analysis		X			
Communication			X		
Organization			X		
Accuracy		X			

Annotations: The following evidence from the work sample and the reviewer’s comments support the scores above. Page and line numbers refer to the original work sample.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
Research and Investigation: <i>Locating resources independently and/or identifying information within provided texts</i>	4		The sources are reputable, authoritative, and properly formatted as per MLA guidelines.
	All		In-text citations are employed.
Ideas and Content: <i>Presenting a thesis and understanding concepts</i>	1	5-8	In terms of uniting the major components of the assignment, there is no full-fledged thesis. The statement about “trials and tribulations” in fashioning laws and government comes the closest, but it does not include reference to the Civil War. The introduction, and, to a lesser extent, the thesis, is spread out over the first three paragraphs.
Reading and Analysis: <i>Evaluating sources and selecting evidence to support the central idea</i>	2	18	The author claims that it is “amazing” that the 14 th Amendment remains relevant after over 130 years, but several major religions rely upon holy books that date much farther back. A better sense of proportion would help.
	2	3-9	The lengthy quote on the exact language of the 14 th Amendment could be shorted to its most essential elements without compromising the value of the material.
	2	21	The use of the issue of homosexual rights allows the author to make modest progress in connecting the Reconstruction amendments to the present, though much more could have been done to cover the shifting balance of power between states and the federal government.
	All		Although the author identified respectable sources, the actual evidence employed in the essay is underwhelming.
Communication: <i>Using subject-appropriate language and considering audience</i>	1	21	“fast forward” used in a manner that is overly casual
	All		With more serious deficiencies in other areas, the use of subject-specific language and consideration of audience is neither inspiring nor egregious.
Organization: <i>Structuring main ideas and supporting information</i>	1		The author does not incorporate the Civil War into his/her argument until the third paragraph, which muddies the effort to get to the heart of the assignment.
	3	1-6	The conclusion does not provide much in the way of a summary of the author’s case.
	All		The transitions are adequate in avoiding any jarring changes in focus.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
Accuracy: <i>Attending to detail, grammar, spelling, conventions, citations, and formatting</i>	1	1	The essay could use a more imaginative title that hints at how the author is interpreting his/her sources.
	1	2	The author writes in the first person plural.
	1	2-3	Two consecutive sentences begin with the same language (“it was”) for a lack of variety.
	2	13	The author employs “upmost important” instead of utmost importance.
	1	12	“down falls” = one word
	1	3-5	Several sentence fragments (also pg 1, ln 10 and pg 2, ln 14)
	1	14	The author ends a sentence with a preposition.
	All		There are a fair number of errors beyond what is listed here, which, in their totality, cause the quality of writing to become a distraction in absorbing the content of the essay.