**Guiding Question Document Set (1-3): How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act impact sectionalism in the United States?**

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| **Document** | **Analysis** |
| **#1** | 1. Who is writing? (author)
2. Who is the author writing to? (audience)
3. What is the author’s OVERALL theme? What do they want readers to know?
4. SUMMARIZE at LEAST THREE examples from the text that relate to the overall theme. YOU MUST UNDERLINE AND LABEL EACH PART OF THE TEXT YOU ARE USING FOR EVIDENCE
	1. Example #1-
	2. Example #2-
	3. Example #3-
 |
| **#2** | 1. Who is writing? (author)
2. Who is the author writing to? (audience)
3. What is the author’s OVERALL theme? What do they want readers to know?
4. SUMMARIZE at LEAST THREE examples from the text that relate to the overall theme. YOU MUST UNDERLINE AND LABEL EACH PART OF THE TEXT YOU ARE USING FOR EVIDENCE
	1. Example #1-
	2. Example #2-
	3. Example #3-
 |
| **#3** | 1. Who is writing? (author)
2. Who is the author writing to? (audience)
3. What is the author’s OVERALL theme? What do they want readers to know?
4. SUMMARIZE at LEAST THREE examples from the text that relate to the overall theme. YOU MUST UNDERLINE AND LABEL EACH PART OF THE TEXT YOU ARE USING FOR EVIDENCE
	1. Example #1-
	2. Example #2-
	3. Example #3-
 |

**Prompt:**

**How did the Kansas-Nebraska Act impact sectionalism in the United States?**

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| --- | --- |
| Thesis Statement |  |
| Evidence #1 |  |
| Evidence #2 |  |
| Evidence #3 |  |

**DOCUMENT #1**

Edward Bridgman (in Kansas) Writes to His Cousin Back East (1856)

Dear Cousin Sidney

I write now to let you know my present situation and a little about the affairs of Kansas....

In some small towns the men are called up nearly every night to hold themselves in readiness to meet the worst as scouting parties of [slave holders] are around continually, plundering clothes yards, horses and cattle, and everything they can lay hold of. A few miles from the town of Lawrence a man was plowing. a party of Southerners came along and being hungry killed his best ox, ate what they wanted, took away some and left the rest. Such like occurrences are almost daily taking place. Last Thursday, news came from Lawrence that the town was in the hands of the [pro-slavery Border Ruffians], and that they had demolished the free state Hotel, burned Robinson's house, and destroyed the two printing presses. Almost immediately a company of 30 [men to fight back] was raised. There was no reason why I could not go for one, so I borrowed a rifle and ammunition and joined them. The thought of engaging in battle is not a pleasing one, but the free state men are compelled to. …At sundown we divided into 2 divisions and took turns in walking. It was really affecting to see husbands and wives bid each other good bye…

… On our way back we heard that 5 men had been killed by Free State men. the men were butchered -- ears cut off and the bodies thrown into the river[.] the murdered men (Proslavery) had thrown out threats and insults, yet the act was barbarous and inhuman whoever committed by[.] we met the men going when we were going up and knew that they were on a secret expedition, yet didn't know what it was. Tomorrow something will be done to arrest them… perhaps they had good motives, some think they had, how that is I dont know…The War seems to have commenced in real earnest. horses are stolen on all sides whenerver they can be taken....

…Since yesterday I have learned that those men who committed those murders were a party of Browns. one of them was formerly in the wool business in Springfield, John Brown…

**DOCUMENT #2**

Charles Sumner’s Speech, “A Crime Against Kansas,” Delivered to the Senate (1856)

Take down your map, Sir, and you will find… the Territory of Kansas…

Against this Territory… a Crime has been committed which is without example in the records of the Past …It is the rape of a virgin Territory, compelling it to the hateful embrace of Slavery; and it may be clearly traced to a depraved desire for a new Slave States, hideous offspring of such a crime, in the hope of adding to the power of Slavery in the National Government…

Even now, while I speak, portents lower in the horizon, threatening to darken the land, which already palpitates with the mutterings of civil war....”

I must say something of a general character of the Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. BUTLER,) …he has read many books of nobility, and believes himself a noble knight with ideas of honor and courage. Of course he has chosen a mistress to whom he has made his vows, and who, though ugly to others, is always lovely to him; though polluted in the sight of the world, is innocent in his sight -- I mean the harlot, Slavery.

…He [the South Carolina senator] is the uncompromising, unblushing representative on this floor of an obvious *sectionalism* which now torments over the Republic…

The asserted rights of Slavery, which shock equality of all kinds, are cloaked by a fantastic claim of equality. If the slave States cannot … force fellow men to labor, to separate husband and wife, and to sell little children at the auction block -- then, sir, the..Senator will secede the State of South Carolina out of the Union!

…Now, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, on its very face, openly cleared the way for Slavery, and … its inventors intended…and sought in this way to extend Slavery. Of course, they did. And this is …the Crime against Kansas…With regret, I come again upon the Senator from South Carolina, [Mr. Butler] who… in this debate, overflowed with rage at the simple suggestion that Kansas had applied for admission as a [free] State…

**DOCUMENT #3**

Senator Isaac Bassett’s Witness Account of the Caning of Charles Sumner, Written as Part of a Book on the History of the Senate (1856)

Mr. Sumner delivered on the 19 and 20 of May 1856 his speech on the “Crime Against Kansas,” it was marked by his usual efforts of learning and great force. Among those senators he alluded to were Mr. Butler (from South Carolina) …who had singled him out for special attack. It was for words spoken in those speeches that Mr. Brooks, a member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina, came over from the House … Mr. Sumner at his desk…. Brooks approached him and said, “I have come over from the House of Representatives to punish you for the remarks that you made…I have read your speech twice over, carefully, … it is a insult on South Carolina and against my relative Senator Butler.”

He then immediately, without waiting for a reply, without having previously indicating his purposes of violence, or giving Mr. Sumner an opportunity of putting himself on the defensive, assaulted Mr. S[umner] with a stout cane…Mr. Sumner arose from his seat and made an effort to take hold of Mr. Brooks, but …the last blow broke the cane in pieces and brought Mr. Sumner senseless to the floor…The cane flew to pieces and I picked up the gold head of the cane and handed it to Mr. S.A. Douglas who stood by. Mr. Rusk, Mr. Douglas, and others stood by but did not interfere. I assisted Mr. Sumner to the Reception Room and bathed his head which bled profusely.

…He was taken up and carried in the anteroom of the Senate, where every assistance was paid to him. I immediately got a basin of water and towels and assisted to wash the blood from his head and face. He was then able to go in a carriage to his lodgings

The cane that Mr. Brooks used was broken in small pieces. I have a piece now in my possession. It was a …cane an inch thick, the cane broke into fragments. It was the speech [about events in Kansas] that Mr. Sumner delivered on the 19 and 20 of May that caused Mr. Brooks to cane him.