

CLAIM, EVIDENCE, REASONING (CER)

In the boxes below, state your claim, provide textual evidence that supports it, and explain how the evidence supports your claim.

Claim	Why did the Southern states secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America? <i>The Southern states seceded from the Union to create a new government that would better protect and maintain the system of slavery.</i>
Evidence	What evidence from the primary-source documents supports your claim? <i>"We should declare the [major] reasons which [caused us to secede] ... Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery." (Mississippi Ordinance of Secession)</i> <i>"No law denying or impairing the right of property in... slaves, shall be passed..." (Article I, Section 9, Clause 4, Constitution of the C.S.A.)</i>
Reasoning	How or why does the textual evidence support your claim? <i>Mississippi's ordinance of secession states that its decision to secede is directly tied to creating a new government that would explicitly protect the institution of slavery. Mississippi and the other states in the Confederacy wrote a constitution that did just that by stating that the system of slavery could never be abolished. This provision differed from the U.S. Constitution because it explicitly prohibited laws that impaired slaveholders' claimed property rights. This evidence demonstrates that secession was intended to create a government that would protect and preserve slavery.</i>