

CLAIM, EVIDENCE, REASONING (CER)

In the boxes below, state your claim, find textual evidence to support your claim, and provide reasons why or how your claim is valid.

Claim	<p>Why did the Southern states secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America?</p> <p><i>The Southern states seceded from the Union to create a new government that would better protect and maintain the system of slavery.</i></p>
Evidence	<p>What is your evidence (from the primary source documents)?</p> <p><i>“We should declare the [major] reasons which [caused us to secede]... Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery.” (Ordinance of Secession - Mississippi)</i></p> <p><i>“No law denying or impairing the right of property in... slaves, shall be passed...” (Article 1, Section 9, Clause 4, Constitution of the C.S.A.)</i></p>
Reasoning	<p>How or why does the textual evidence support your claim?</p> <p><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 language was a divergence from the language in the U.S. Constitution, which allowed for states to make slavery illegal as well as for a national amendment abolishing slavery. This evidence showcases that the intention behind secession was to create a government that would ensure the existence of slavery.</i></p>