

# HISTORICAL ARGUMENTATION & Causation ... Reconstruction (consult writing guidelines for elaborated instructions)

**Step #1** Read the question carefully:

**Prompt:** To what extent did the Civil War have a positive impact on the nation?

**Step #2** Evaluate the following thesis. Is their X (opposing view) effective? Is their thesis (Y) ATFQ? Are their categories (ABC) clear? Is the LC effectively setting the scene or is it useless fluff?

**Thesis:** The Civil War was one of the most tragic wars in American history. Brother fought against brother and the nation was torn apart. This war was fought over states rights and slavery. Each side felt passionately about their beliefs. Although the Civil War left the South in ruins due to most of the war being fought on southern soil such as Sherman's March to the Sea where he destroyed everything in the Union wake, the effects of the Civil War were positive to a great extent because political conflict over states rights was resolved, slavery ended, and the country reunited as one.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

**Step #3** Review the arguments below. Support or refute each one, then write your own response to the prompt on a separate sheet of paper

*....If you're supporting all of these... you're not thinking! Your answers need to be backed up with a specific piece of evidence!*

- A. **The nation was reunited** and the southern states were not allowed to secede.
- B. The South was placed under military rule and divided into military districts. Southern states then had to apply for readmission to the Union and would gain approval only when they **rebuked slavery, changed their state constitutions, and ratified the Civil War Amendments.**
- C. The **Federal government proved itself supreme over the states.** Essentially this was a war over states rights and federalism and the victor was the power of the national government.
- D. **Slavery was effectively ended.** While slavery was not officially outlawed until the passage of the 13th amendment, the slaves were set free upon the end of the war. **African Americans could legally work for themselves, live freely, move freely, and enjoy suffrage** (men only).
- E. Reconstruction, the plan to rebuild America after the war, began. Reconstruction included **readmitting states** along with **restructuring society** as it transitioned from **slave to wage labor.**
- F. **Industrialism began** as a result of the increase in wartime production and the development of new technologies. However the Southern economy was devastated and took more than 50 years to truly recover.