

Was John Brown a Hero or a Murderer?

Even today, 150 years after John Brown's ill-fated raid at Harpers Ferry, controversy surrounds Brown's actions. Some people believe that he was a hero and that his ultimate goal – ending slavery – justified his use of violence. Other people believe that his use of fear and violence made him a terrorist.

Construct a thoughtful written response of approximately 200 words, with two quotes from a primary source.

Be sure to address the following:

- 1) What reasons did John Brown have for raiding Harper's Ferry?
- 2) What are some of the events, situations in the country leading up to the 1859 raid?
- 3) What were reactions of people around the country?
- 4) Was John Brown a hero or terrorist? Explain.