

# Analyzing Motivations for Fighting the Civil War

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**Analyzing** is breaking down a topic or subject into parts so that it is easier to understand.

**You use analysis when you**

- study the moves of an outstanding athlete
- pick out a new hairstyle or go shopping for new clothes
- learn the rules for a new game or learn how to use new software

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**Cluster Question:** What were they fighting for?

**Directions:** Note how one reader analyzed Model A and highlighted passages that identify issues that caused the war. Notice also the way the reader explained the highlighted text. Use the same method to analyze the reasons that soldiers volunteered to fight in the war from Model B.

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## Model A

... While the South stayed with large plantation-style agriculture, the North industrialized and expanded rapidly into the Western territories. By 1830, one million more lived in the free states than in the slave states, and by 1840 the difference was almost two million.

*continued*

Different economic bases gave the North and South conflicting needs.

The population difference gave the free states more power.

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The South had reason to be worried: The tariff legislation had shown that the North could outvote the South in the House of Representatives; internationally the institution of slavery was disappearing fast. . . .

*continued*

The North could outvote the South on trade tariff laws.

The South felt vulnerable because they could be outvoted.

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. . . in the United States, **propaganda against the institution on moral grounds**, which had existed almost from the beginning, became stronger and louder.  
*from “The Civil War,” pages 12–13*

There was pressure on the South from the North to end slavery on moral grounds.

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## Your Analysis of Model B

But here we are, taken with spring fever and thinking it blood lust, . . . going to be a hero, going to live forever. And I can see all them over there nodding agreement, save the other way around. . . . Sometime this week more innocents will get shot out of pure Cherokee enthusiasm than ever got shot before.

*from* “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,”  
page 52

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*from "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,"*  
page 52

Some soldiers were fighting because they wanted to be heroes.

They had no concept of the horrors of war and no understanding of their own mortality.

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*from* “The Drummer Boy of Shiloh,”  
page 52 But

They were young and enthusiastic, but not wise.