

Writing Activity: Reflecting on *A House Divided*

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Using the information in this book, and in other books, movies, and television shows you might have seen, write an argumentative essay answering the essential question: Why is the Civil War considered a defining moment in American history? Use examples to support your arguments.

Use the graphic organizer on the following screens to help you organize important information in your essay.

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Quotation or Detail	Cause or Justification

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Quotation or Detail	Cause or Justification

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Synthesize your information into an argumentative essay. Fill in the blank with your main idea. Then use the graphic organizer to help you organize your essay.

Main Idea: The Civil War was a defining moment in American history _____

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Introduction:
Creates interest, states main idea



Claim 1:
Evidence/facts/reasons



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Claim 2:

Evidence/facts/reasons



Claim 3:

Evidence/facts/reasons



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Conclusion:

Summarizes, restates main idea, unifies the writing