Grade 8

Student Response

The Government could have ended slavery without war. In South Carolinas Declaration of Secession it states (this is not a direct quote) that slaves are slaves were property and the right to own property is protected by the constitution, it then says (also not a direct quote) that the three fifths tax on slaves and northern states harboring escaped slaves and causing havoc in the south are some of the reasons why they are seceding. Rather than trying to force abolition upon them, we could have created programs to support factories and machines in the southern states as soon as slavery became a nation wide controversy. If the south saw the machine economy that the north had and saw that these machines and factories were with within reach and much more efficient than slave labor, they might have moved away from slaves and into a more modern system. Rather than having the majority of income come from slave labor in farms and plantations, they would have a machine driven economy. If the south made this switch, they would have less of a use for slaves and possibly free a large amount of them. As they kept moving in the direction of an efficient, machine driven economy, they would see the uselessness of slaves and eventually ban them. This way may take a much longer time, but it would prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths, and the expensive rebuilding of the south after the Civil War.

Focus/Argument = 4

Reason for the score:
The student provides and maintains a clear argument.
Reason a higher score was not awarded:
N/A

Evidence = 2

Reason for the score:
The student uses evidence to support their argument, but they draw on only one source.
Reason a higher score was not awarded:
N/A

Argument = 3

Reason for the score:
The student adequately makes connections between ideas and uses domain-specific language.
Reason a higher score was not awarded:
N/A

Conventions = 3

Reason for the score:
The response is readable and the errors present do not impact reader understanding.
Reason a higher score was not awarded:
N/A