

Name: _____

Date: _____

War of 1812

Directions: Create a claim that answers the inquiry question, with supporting evidence and analysis.

Document A: Henry Clay- Kentucky. Feb. 22, 1810

It is said ... that no object is attainable by war with Great Britain. In its fortunes, we are to estimate not the benefits of war and its cost to the enemy. The Conquest of Canada is in your power. I state that I believe that we are able to place Upper Canada at your feet. Is it nothing to the British nation; is it nothing to the pride of her Monarch (King), to have the last of the North American possessions held by him in the beginning of his reign taken from him? Is it nothing to us to extinguish the torch that lights up savage warfare? Is it nothing to acquire the entire fur trade connected with that country.

Annals of congress, 11th congress, 1st Session (1810). 580

Inquiry Question: Should the United States go to war with Great Britain?

Claim: Should the United States go to war with Great Britain?	Evidence:	Analysis: Why/how does your evidence support the United States going to war or not?
The United should (go to war/not go to war) because:	According to document A:	This shows:

Document B: Congressman Felix Grundy -Tennessee. Dec. 9, 1811

It is the right of shipping the items that our businesses create to **foreign** countries. Sir, our ships are now captured by the British without having done a single thing wrong.

...The United States are already the second largest trading nation in the world. The rapid growth of our trading importance has no doubt, been a deep concern to Britain... What, Mr. speaker, are we now called on to decide? It is whether we will resist by force the attempt... to subject our trading rights to the will of another country. For my part I am not prepared to say this country shall submit to have our rights monitored by another country. Sir, I prefer war to submission.

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Document C: Congressman John Randolph -Virginia Dec. 9, 1811

Sir, if you go to war it will not be for the protection of, or defense of your trading rights. Canada seems to be tempting many of our peers.

Greed, not trading right, urges the war. Ever since the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations came into the House, we have heard but one work Canada! Candida! Canada!

It is to acquire a dominating Northern influence that you are to launch into war. For purposes of trading safety, the rocks of Bermuda were worth more to us than all the deserts of Canada...

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Document D: Excerpt from President James Madison’s Message to Congress June 1, 1812

British ships have been in the continued practice of violating the American flag on the great highway of nations [oceans], and of seizing and carrying off American sailors...

Blockades: Preventing people or goods from going to their destination
Plundered: Stolen

British ships have been in the practice of violating the rights and the peace of our coasts. They hover over and harass our entering and departing trade... Under pretended **blockades**... our trade has been **plundered** in every sea, the great resources of our country have been cut off from their legitimate markets, and a destructive blow aimed at our agricultural [farming] and maritime [Ocean]

interests...

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Homework: MEAEAL PARAGRAPH

Should the United States go to war with Great Britain?