



Directions: : After reading the background information and examining the source, answer the questions below.

Background Information: *In the 1860s, leaders in several British North American colonies met to discuss the possibility of creating a new country through Confederation. Conferences were held in Charlottetown and Québec where delegates debated how a new union might be organized and governed. The issue was widely discussed in legislatures, newspapers, and public speeches across the colonies.*

Featured Source:

“...the bold scheme in your hands is nothing less than to gather all these countries ... into one—to organize them all under one government, with the protection of the British flag...our scheme is to establish a government that will seek to turn the tide of European emigration into this northern half of the American continent—... strive to develop its great natural resources...the constitutional system of Canada cannot remain as it is now... Something must be done. We cannot stand still...this union will inspire new confidence in our stability... it will raise the value of our public securities... draw capital to our shores, and secure the prosecution of all legitimate enterprises...I go heartily for the union, because it will throw down the barriers of trade and give us the control of a market of four millions of people...”

Source: George Brown, Speech on Confederation, February 8, 1865

Your Task: Examine the inferences below and use two different coloured highlighters to note evidence which could be used to support each inference.

Alternative Inferences	
Person 1:	Brown supports Confederation because he believes political union will strengthen the colonies economically by encouraging trade, investment, and immigration.
Person 2	Brown supports Confederation because he believes the colonies will be better off separating from Britain and becoming completely independent.

Multiple Choice: Which inference is most plausible?

- a) Person 1’s inference is most plausible.
- b) Person 2’s inference is most plausible.
- c) Both Person 1 and Person 2’s inferences are equally plausible.
- d) Neither meaning is plausible.

Short Answer Response: Explain your reasoning on the backside of this sheet. Quote or reference specific phrases from the text to support your conclusion.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

 Assessment Rubric	
Level	Description
Sophisticated / Extending	Identifies most reasonable claim and provides fully developed justification. Refers to the author, purpose, and/or context and uses relevant evidence from the source to justify reasoning. May also demonstrate why other interpretations are weaker.
Proficient	Identifies the most reasonable claim and refers the author, purpose, or context of the source to justify reasoning.
Developing	Identifies most reasonable claim, but provides a limited or partially supported justification and/or lists relevant evidence without connecting to conclusion.
Emerging	Selects an answer but provides minimal or incorrect reasoning . Little or no reference to the source or provides summary of content.

 Exemplar Response	
Level: Sophisticated / Extending	<p>Inference 1 is better supported. Brown repeatedly argues that Confederation will strengthen the colonies economically. For example, he says union will “throw down the barriers of trade and give us the control of a market of four millions of people,” suggesting that a larger internal market would help trade and industry. He also says union would “draw capital to our shores...,” which suggests it would increase investment and economic growth.</p> <p>Inference 2 is less plausible because Brown clearly emphasizes continued loyalty to Britain. He describes the colonies uniting “under one government, with the protection of the British flag...,” which suggests the new country would remain part of the British Empire rather than become independent.</p>