



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:

“Shall we be content to maintain a mere provincial existence, when, by combining together, we could become a great nation?...Nations were now formed by the agglomeration of communities having kindred interests and sympathies...When we were united together... we would form a political nationality with which neither the national origin, nor the religion of any individual, would interfere....Look, for instance, at the United Kingdom... three great races... each contributed their share to the greatness of the Empire.”

Source: George-Étienne Cartier, Speech on Confederation, February 7, 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:	Cartier believes that the British North American colonies should unite because political union would allow them to become a stronger and more important nation.
Person 2	Cartier argues that Confederation should occur mainly because it would eliminate differences between cultural and religious groups in British North America.

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 below. 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 by the source because Cartier repeatedly argues that union would make the colonies stronger. For example, he asks whether the colonies should remain in a “mere provincial existence” when “by combining together, we could become a great nation.” This suggests that his main argument for Confederation is that political union would create a stronger and more important country.</p> <p>Inference 2 is less plausible because Cartier actually says those differences would still exist but should not prevent political unity. For example, he explains that in the new federation “neither the national origin, nor the religion of any individual, would interfere...” This suggests diversity will remain, but it should not stop the colonies from uniting.</p>