Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER)

In the boxes below, state your claim, find textual evidence to support your claim, and provide reasons why or how your claim is valid.

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| Claim | Why did the Southern states secede from the Union to form the Confederate States of America?  *The Southern states seceded from the Union to create a new government that would better protect and maintain the system of slavery.* |
| Evidence | What is your evidence (from the primary source documents)?  *“We should declare the [major] reasons which [caused us to secede]... Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery.” (Ordinance of Secession - Mississippi)*  *“No law denying or impairing the right of property in… slaves, shall be passed...” (Article 1, Section 9, Clause 4, Constitution of the C.S.A.)* |
| Reasoning | How or why does the textual evidence support your claim?  *Mississippi’s ordinance of secession states that its decision to secede is directly tied to creating a new government that would explicitly protect the institution of slavery. Mississippi and the other states in the Confederacy wrote a constitution that did just that by stating that the system of slavery could never be abolished. This language was a divergence from the language in the U.S. Constitution, which allowed for states to make slavery illegal as well as for a national amendment abolishing slavery. This evidence showcases that the intention behind secession was to create a government that would ensure the existence of slavery.* |