

US History 11
Mr. Moore
Example Document Responses
2013-2014

The following are a selection of document responses to a set of political cartoons about the Ku Klux Klan from the 1920s. The responses vary in quality and consequent in the grade that they will receive.

Very Good Response: 9-10

A very good response will contain specific references to the document the writer is examining. It will show evidence of engagement with the document and original analysis. This evidence could be, for example, drawing a parallel either to another historical development or to the present day. There will be no or virtually no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.

The political cartoon that I will write on is the one in which The Klansman carries a whip and a bucket of tar labeled “Terrorism” (to tar-and-feather victims). In this it shows a leg kicking a Ku Klux Klan member and on the leg “True Americanism” is written. Additionally the Ku Klux Klan member is also carrying a book saying “Bigotry”. I like this cartoon in specific because my interpretation of this is that the “True” Americans aren’t agreeing with the ideals and values of the Ku Klux Klan, which was to prevent racial mixing and upsetting of that natural hierarchy of the races. In addition to this Americans want to get rid of the bigotry and terrorism caused by the Ku Klux Klan.

Personally I believe that the doings of the Klan in this time weren’t completely irrational at the time, in my opinion with 4 to 5 million members, the Ku Klux Klan was not some small organization that everyone hated it was more of an organization that was frowned upon. I think it could be related to joining a gang nowadays, because both are morally wrong, frowned upon by the majority of the public and the government and do things that are illegal. It may have been seen as “cool” to join the clan as it is “cool” to join a gang today and I do not think at the time the public portrayed Klan members as the horrible people we portray them as today, nonetheless we see now their actions were indisputably wrong.

Good Response: 8-9

A good response shares many of the characteristics of the very good response, but may be deficient in one or more area. A response with very good analysis may fall into the good category by failing to effectively use its length effectively. There may be a few errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or typography that do not prevent the reader from understanding the writer’s meaning.

The Ku Klux Klan was an organization that promoted hatred and discrimination against people of the African-American race and other ethnic or religious groups. Originally, it had formed in the South during the Reconstruction era, in the late 1800s. In 1915 the organization was formed again by a group of angry men in South Georgia. In class, we saw many political cartoons about this revival of the Klan. Specifically, there is one, by cartoonist, Walter Studio, which satirized the prevalent racist portrayal of the “negro brute” as a lurking threat to the American civilization. Although the main point of the cartoon was very obvious, I liked it the most because it emphasizes on how the hatred and racism of the Klan was truly affecting the American society; this was represented by a large monster strangling an innocent woman, who was supposed to be the main representation of the American civilization.

Mediocre Response: 7-8

A mediocre response does not manage to consistently offer more than surface-level analysis. The writer's conclusions may be overly broad or not effectively linked to the document itself. The author may fail to present the document effectively or use the minimum length efficiently. There may be several errors that cause minor confusion over the author's meaning. There may be a couple of minor factual errors, unclear statements, or unsupported claims.

In the political cartoon about kuklux clan that we saw we learned or at least gave us an idea on how they work, in what they think and what they believe. I don't believe how people created an exclusive clan for people who didn't like the black people or basically racist people. They made their reunions to continue doing their tributes, they also invited more people to go in. I think those people just feel superior when we are all equal. Also I can't believe how people pretend to be just a normal person, maybe nice to everyone but the truth behind all that kindness there was a person who was racist or maybe someone who have killed people. I don't know how they have feelings to do this kind of the things, for me is unacceptable. Also I think that people who might be part of this need to go to jail or make a huge punishment for those people. But sadly they were gaining power in the government. I hope this problem have been reduce but at least to not been as extreme as it was in years before.

Poor Response: Below 7

A poor response fails to meet basic expectations for the assignment in terms of length, analysis, focus, and/or professionalism.

Ku klux klan created a huge effect on the US during the twenties. In my opinion this klan created was not good for the society because can create a lot of conflicts between the diversity of religions and races. The government created propaganda to help the society to do not support the Klan. That was a good decision that the government made but also create conflicts with the Klan members. Also the problem is that the leaders of this Klan were people with a lot of experience on war and had a contacts that can support them providing resources so upgrade the Klan.