



Assert-Cite-Explain Evidence Card Examples

Assertion: Mary Jemison’s description of her captivity by Native Americans was surprisingly favorable to her captors.

Citation: **“It was my happy lot to be accepted for adoption. At the time of the ceremony I was received by the two squaws to supply the place of their brother in the family; and I was ever considered and treated by them as a real sister, the same as though I had been born of their mother.”**

Explanation: By describing her acceptance as a “real sister” in a Native American family, Jemison humanized them for white readers inclined to view Indians as “savages.” She described the warmth of family bonds in a way many would associate with their own kin relations.

Assertion: Booker T. Washington’s “Atlanta Compromise” speech seems to suggest that southern black workers should be as servile as they were in the slave era.

Citation: **“Cast down your bucket among these people who have, without strikes and labour wars, tilled your fields, cleared your forests, [and] builded your railroads and cities. . . . As we have proved our loyalty to you in the past, in nursing your children, watching by the sick-bed of your mothers and fathers, and often following them with tear-dimmed eyes to their graves, so in the future, in our humble way, we shall stand by with a devotion that no foreigner can approach. . . .”** (p. 343)

Explanation: Washington’s allusion to the industry, loyalty, and humility of southern blacks “in the past” promised a work force as servile as the old slave population. His sentimental description of blacks in domestic occupations appealed to his audience’s nostalgia for the slave era.