**Document A – General Sherman to the Mayor and City Council of Atlanta**

Headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi in the Field, September 12, 1864

James M. Calhoun, Mayor, E.E. Rawson and S.C. Wares, representing City Council of Atlanta.

Gentlemen:

. . . I cannot impart to you what we propose to do but I assert that our military plans make it

necessary for the inhabitants to go away, and I can only renew my offer of services to make

their exodus in any direction as easy and comfortable as possible.

You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it; and those who brought war into our country deserve all the curses and maledictions a people can pour out. I know I had no hand in making this war, and I know I will make more sacrifices today than any of you to secure peace. . . Once admit the Union, once more acknowledge the authority of the national Government, and instead of devoting your houses and streets and roads to the dread uses of war, I and this army become at once your protectors and supporters.

. . . You might as well appeal against the thunder-storm as against these terrible hardships of

war. They are inevitable, and the only way the people of Atlanta can hope once more to live in peace and quiet at home, is to stop the war, which can only be done by admitting that it began in error and is perpetuated in pride. . . .

Yours in haste,

W. T. Sherman, Major-General commanding

\*\*\*Source: Sherman W. T. to Atlanta Mayor James M. Calhoun and City Council of Atlanta. September 12, 1864. Accessed 6/11/14. http://www.rjgeib.com/thoughts/sherman/sherman-to-burn-atlanta.html

**Document B – A Woman’s Wartime Journal (Excerpt)**

November 19, 1864

. . . I hastened back to my frightened servants and told them that they had better hide, and

then went back to the gate to claim protection and a guard. But like demons they rush in! My

yards are full. To my smoke-house, my dairy, panty, kitchen, and cellar, like famished wolves

they come, breaking locks and whatever is in my way. The thousand pounds of meat in my

smoke-house is gone in a twinkling, my flour, my meat, my lard, butter, eggs, pickles of various

kinds – both in vinegar and brine – wine, jars, and jugs are all gone. My eighteen fat turkeys,

my hens, chickens, and fowls, my young pigs, are shot down in my yard and hunted as if they

were rebels themselves. Utterly powerless I ran out and appealed to the guard.

“I cannot help you, Madam; it is orders.”

. . . Sherman himself and a greater portion of his army passed my house that day. All day, as

the sad moments rolled on, were they passing not only in front of my house, but from behind;

they tore down my garden palings, made a road through my back-yard and lot field, driving

their stock and riding through, tearing down my fences and desolating my home – wantonly

doing it when there was no necessity for it.

\*\*\*Source: Lunt, Dolly Sumner. *A Woman’s Wartime Journal: An Account of the Passage Over a Georgia Plantation of Sherman’s Army on the March to the Sea, as Recorded in the Diary of Dolly Sumner Lunt.* New York: TheCentury Co., 1918. Documenting the American South. Accessed 6/10/14.<http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/burge/lunt.html>

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| **Document A – *Close Reading*** | **Document B – *Close Reading*** |
| 1. Who was the author of this source? To whom was the  source directed? What position/role did the author have  during this time period? | 1. Who was the author of this source? To whom was the  source directed? What position/role did the author have  during this time period? |
| 2. What claims does the author make explicitly or  implicitly within the source? | 2. What claims does the author make explicitly or  implicitly within the source? |
| 3. What evidence does the author use to support the  claim(s)? | 3. What evidence does the author use to support the  claim(s)? |
| 4. What feelings does the author try to *invoke*  [appeal to]? | 4. What feelings does the author try to *invoke*  [appeal to]? |
| 5. What information does the author leave out? Which  perspectives are missing? | 5. What information does the author leave out? Which  perspectives are missing? |
| Considering the evidence presented, was total war by William T. Sherman and the United States Army justified? Please write you answer and give support for your opinion. | |