
1. Base your answer to the following question on box2>... Instead of this, however, we have been exerting [putting forth] our best efforts to propitiate [gain] her [Mexico's] good will. Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own, she has affected to believe that we have severed [removed] her rightful territory, and in official proclamations and manifestoes has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas. In the meantime we have tried every effort at reconciliation [restoring harmony]. The cup of forbearance [tolerance] had been exhausted even before the recent information from the frontier of the Del Norte [Mexican-American border]. But now, after reiterated [repeated] menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced [begun], and that the two nations are now at war. . . .
— President James K. Polk, Message to Congress, May 11, 1846/box2>

1) Based on this passage, state *one* reason President Polk asked Congress to declare war on Mexico?

2) How does Polk refer to Texas in this document?

3) How does Polk describe Mexico's opinion regarding Texas?

4) In your opinion, what is the most important claim Polk is making about Mexico? Support your opinion with specific reasons.

2. Base your answer to the following question on box2>. . . Regarding it as a war [Mexican War] to strengthen the "Slave Power," we are conducted to a natural conclusion, that it is virtually, and in its consequences, a war against the free States of the Union.
- Conquest and robbery are attempted in order to obtain a political control at home; and distant battles are fought, less with a special view of subjugating [conquering] Mexico, than with the design of overcoming the power of the free States, under the constitution.** The lives of Mexicans are sacrificed in this cause; and a domestic question, which should be reserved for bloodless debate in our own country, is transferred to fields of battle in a foreign land. . . .
- Resolution passed by the Massachusetts Legislature opposing the Mexican War;
Massachusetts House Documents, 1847/box2>
- 1) According to this resolution, what was *one* reason the Massachusetts legislature opposed the Mexican War?

2) In your opinion, what is the sentence in **bold** trying to say?

3) Compare and contrast this document to the previous one (President Polk). How do the two documents disagree over the war with Mexico? What are some possible reasons for the disagreement?

3. **Word Bank**

Pretext- a reason that you give to hide your real reason for doing something

Proclamation- an official statement or announcement made by a person in power or by a government

Manifesto- a written statement declaring publicly the intentions, motives, or views of its issuer

Frontier- a border between two countries :a distant area where few people live

Virtually- : very nearly : almost entirely
