

# INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 23 MODEL

## TASK 23 IDENTIFYING CLAIM/EVIDENCE CHART AND SUMMARY

**STEP 1:** *Select multiple texts and sources that address a specific topic.*

**STEP 2:** *Review the topic and various documents with students and guide them to create focus questions about the topic.*

In this example, the topic is the election of 1896, one that in many ways resembles the political, economic and social issues of today. It revolved around the economic issue of gold vs. silver as standard in the treasury; the influence of big business on politics, conservatism vs. progressivism; all played out against a background of journalistic propaganda, bias, and rhetoric; something that students can relate to in today's political, economic, and social climate.

**THIS EXAMPLE USES DOCUMENTS FROM THE  
"ELECTION IN SILVER AND GOLD"—COLLECTION #???**

by Beranrd A. Weisberger

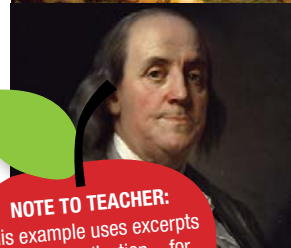
ASSESSED JULY 8, 2013

<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/election-silver-and-gold>

...The Republicans held on as the party of prosperity through industrial growth and the tariff, nominated their fifth Union-army veteran since 1868, Ohio's governor William McKinley, and declared essentially for a gold standard. The Democrats ... produced a platform plank calling for the unlimited coinage of silver at sixteen to one, and named Bryan their candidate. But there were three parties in the game ... and the new People's party, better known as the Populists...were primarily a Farm Belt coalition. They embraced free silver but also had a much more far-reaching program for taming corporations and democratizing the industrial order; it included the direct election of senators, rural credit systems, and public ownership of railroads among other highly radical ideas for the 1890s.

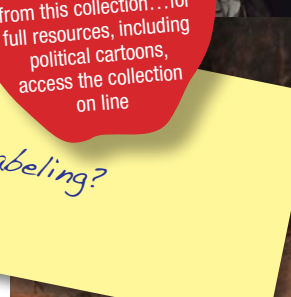
...The Populists had always received a poor press in the big cities; one newspaper described the delegates to their convention as "anarchists, howlers, tramps, highwaymen, burglars...men with unkempt and matted hair."...

... Not all the vehemence was on the Republican side. Pro-Bryan cartoonists drew caricatures of McKinley's campaign manager, Mark Hanna, as a bloated plutocrat wearing a vest patterned in dollar signs...



**NOTE TO TEACHER:**  
this example uses excerpts from this collection...for full resources, including political cartoons, access the collection on line

Labeling?



## INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 23 MODEL (continued)

### WILLIAM MCKINLEY'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH TO THE G.O.P. NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE

by William McKinley

ASSESSED JUNE 4, 2013

<http://projects.vassar.edu/1896/mckinleyaddress.html>

...During all the years of Republican control following the resumption there was a steady reduction of the public debt, while the gold reserve was sacredly maintained, and our currency and credit preserved without depreciation, taint, or suspicion. If we would restore this policy, that brought us unexampled prosperity for more than thirty years, under the most trying conditions ever known in this country, the policy by which we made and bought more goods at home and sold more abroad, the trade balance would be quickly turned in our favor, and gold would come to us and not go from us in the settlement of all such balances in the future...

### BRYAN'S 'CROSS OF GOLD' SPEECH: MESMERIZING THE MASSES

by William Jennings Bryan

ASSESSED JUNE 4, 2013

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5354/>

...If they dare to come out in the open field and defend the gold standard as a good thing, we shall fight them to the uttermost, having behind us the producing masses of the nation and the world. Having behind us the commercial interests and the laboring interests and all the toiling masses, we shall answer their demands for a gold standard by saying to them, you shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold...

### BRYAN, BRYAN, BRYAN, BRYAN

by Vachel Lindsay

ASSESSED JUNE 4, 2013

<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/bryan-bryan-bryan-bryan/>

...Election night at midnight:

Boy Brian's defeat.

Defeat of western silver.

Defeat of the wheat.

Victory of letterfiles

And plutocrats in miles

With dollar signs upon their coats,

Diamond watchchains on their vests and spats on their feet.

Victory of custodians, Plymouth Rock,

And all that inbred landlord stock...

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**STEP 3:** *Students review the focus question(s) generated, select one to answer.*

a. *Political propaganda was a huge influence in the election of 1896*

b. *The political, economic, and social climate during the election of 1896, closely resembles that of today*

c. *The election of 1896 was about the haves and have-nots.*

## INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 23 MODEL (continued)

**STEP 4:** Using the teacher provided resources they then complete the attached template. Students may have multiple claims to support their focus question answer; expand the template as needed.

### MAKING A CLAIM AND PROVIDING EVIDENCE

DEVELOPING AN EVIDENTIARY ARGUMENT	
<p>What is the question you want to answer? <i>Was the election of 1896 was about the haves and have-nots?</i></p>	
<p>What is the source for the evidence you will use to support your answer? <i>Weisberger's article, "Election in Silver and Gold" McKinley/Bryant speeches Poem by Vachel Lindsey Political cartoons</i></p>	
<p>Claim that you think answers the question <i>The election of 1896 was about the "haves" and the "have-nots" and was played out on the fields of economic and class distinction.</i></p>	<p>Evidence that supports your claim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Stricken economy</i></li> <li>• <i>Gold standard championed by big \$\$\$</i></li> <li>• <i>"populists"...farmers, lower-class, Midwesterners</i></li> <li>• <i>"crucified on a cross of gold" speech, one of the most famous ever</i></li> <li>• <i>Rabid satire; political cartoons</i></li> </ul>
<p>Reasoning: Why is your claim correct and how does the evidence support it? <i>It is obvious from the rhetoric and visual depictions of both sides of the issues, that the two sides aligned themselves with very different political and social ideals; much like the conservatives and liberals/progressives of today. Each side is adept at calling the other side names and labeling them as monsters, while championing their side as saintly.</i></p>	
<p>What do you consider strongest evidence and why? <i>The speeches demonstrate the use of rhetoric that supports this claim... see above annotation</i></p>	
<p>What do you consider weaker evidence and why? <i>In this case, all of the evidence is strong: the article seems unbiased in its presentation of both sides of the issue; the speeches demonstrate the rhetoric and the political cartoons the visual power of sarcasm to undermine your opponent. All the evidence is strong, just in different ways.</i></p>	

**STEP 5:** When students have completed their templates they form pairs to compare, evaluate, and edit their respective claims and evidence.

**STEP 6:** Using their revised work, students individually write a paragraph answering the focus questions and including the claim, evidence supporting the claim, and reasoning connecting the claim and evidence.

*The election of 1896 is one of the most famous elections in American history. The rift in society known as the "have" and the "have-nots". The 20th century was ushered in, by the rift in society known as the "have" and the "have-nots". So too were new levels of political hostility, propaganda, and rhetoric, indicating the political climate in this country that remains with us. This conflict is the underscore of every political race since then, with both sides demonizing the other, and lauding themselves for victory; whether real or imagined.*