**American Experience: John Brown**

**Frederick Douglass remarked, "Did John Brown fail? John Brown began the war that ended American slavery." – analyze the extent to which this statement is true.**

**Part I**:

During the documentary, draw a t-chart, on one side, bullet-points that you note through the video of the ways in which he is a “martyr for the slave”. On the other side, bullet-points that you note through the documentary of his actions that could also make him a “terrorist” and guilty of treason.

**Part II**:

After watching the documentary, write a response to Douglass’ statement in essay format. Please use the following questions as a guide when agreeing with or disputing the statement Douglass made.

1. Discuss John Brown's zealotry. How did his childhood and family impact him? In what ways was he compassionate? Brutal? What were his goals for society? For his family? Did his ends justify his means? How does one account for his widely varying actions?
2. Was John Brown's fight at Harper's Ferry the first step towards ending American slavery? Discuss the positive and negative aspects of the Harper's Ferry incident. What were the immediate outcomes? What outcomes occurred in the long run? Who benefited, and how? Who lost, and how? Are lives lost in war worth the freedoms gained?

