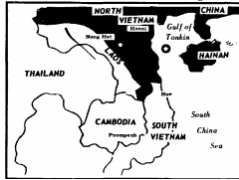## Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.5 - Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

Morris Library Special Collections Resources:

Article From *The Daily Egyptian* News Paper, "Students React to Attack on Ships by North Viet Nam," August 6, 1964.
http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=de_August1964

Topic Background:

The United States involvement in the Vietnam was long, contentious, and controversial. The conflict spanned nearly three decades. The 1960s saw the height of the Vietnam War protest.

Source Used:

The source used for this assessment is an excerpt from *The Daily Egyptian*, a local Southern Illinois newspaper. The article excerpts show different local Southern Illinois student reactions to issues occurring in Vietnam.

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – B
Question 2 – C

Perspectives on Vietnam Involvement (1964)
"Students React to Attack on Ships by North Viet Nam", August 6, 1964.

The far-away war in Viet Nam now seems to be much closer to home.

It is not closer in distance, but the second attack Tuesday by communist North Viet Namese on two American destroyers was felt throughout the country and the SIU campus as a direct assault on the United States.

Opinions of SIU students ranged from those of emotion-filled reaction to statements of thought-provoking interest.

A natural reaction of many students was summed up by Jim Sandrin, graduate student, when he said, "What else could we do? When you get kicked in the teeth, the only thing left is to fight back."

Another SIU student, Wendel Moran, said, "I think we should fight back--I'm tired of turning the other cheek. I'll support President Johnson all the way and what he said in his public address Tuesday evening," he add .

Joe Lauer, fro . St. Paul, Minn. now in training with the Peace Corps, said he watched the President's message Tuesday and consequently became "very worried."

Lauer didn't understand the real reason behind this action by the North Vietnamese, he said, "but it doesn't make sense that two of the Vietnamese boats were sunk and two more damaged while no damage or injuries occurred to the American ships or men.

"This is what worries me;" Lauer said. "There's more behind this than we hear or see on television."

A graduate assistant in history, Allen P. Cissell, couldn't think of any reason at all for this attack on U.S. ships.

"The North Vietnamese have been doing very well in their war thus far; now it appears like they made a very serious mistake," he asserted. "Surely, there is a reason for this, but at the present time it is very well concealed."

An unidentified student thought this might be an "anti-

Question:

1) Why might the author have included the opinion of Joe Lauer in this article? (CCSS. RI.6.5)

   a. Lauer's opinion is included because it shows all students are in firm agreement about what the United States reaction to the North Vietnamese attacks should be.
   b. Lauer's opinion is included because it demonstrates a reaction to North Vietnamese attacks that differs from the other two students opinion mentioned in the article.
   c. Lauer's opinion is included because he is an important authority figure on the war in Vietnam.
   d. The author should have omitted Lauer's opinion because it is irrelevant to the rest of the article.

2) The author states "Opinions of SIU students ranged from those of emotion-filled reactions to statements of thought-provoking interest."

   Whose opinion is the author most likely referring to when he states some opinions were ***thought-provoking***? (CCSS RI.6.4)

   a. Jim Sandrin
   b. Wendel Moran
   c. Joe Lauer