

Signals and Decisions

Compare a public claim with a later analysis of its evidence.

12.T.T.2.b "Analyze and evaluate texts with conflicting information or opposing viewpoints and determine where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretations. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read two brief historical excerpts with editorial context. Only words inside quotation marks are verbatim. Text B continues into paragraph 3. Distinguish what happened from interpretations of how reports were handled.

Tonkin: Claim and Reassessment

- ① **Text A: Lyndon B. Johnson, public address, August 4, 1964. Excerpt:** Johnson said the August 2 attack *"was repeated today by a number of hostile vessels attacking two U.S. destroyers with torpedoes."* He also stated, *"We still seek no wider war."* **Editorial context:** Johnson announced retaliatory air action and said he would seek a congressional resolution. His address presented the reported August 4 attack as an event that had occurred and framed the response as limited. The speech records what he told the public; it does not itself reproduce the underlying intercepts. Source: American Presidency Project, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/238730>.
- ② **Text B: Robert J. Hanyok, historical study, 2000-2001. Excerpt:** On the reported second attack, Hanyok concluded that *"no attack happened that night."* **Editorial context:** His study in the NSA's Cryptologic Quarterly draws on 122 relevant signals-intelligence products, watch-center notes, oral-history interviews and messages. Signals intelligence, or SIGINT, is intelligence gathered from communications and other signals. He concludes that North Vietnamese boats were engaged in recovering vessels damaged on August 2, rather than attacking the destroyers on August 4. He identifies analytical errors and failures to consider contrary information. This does not deny the August 2 clash.

③ **Text B continued: editorial context for Hanyok's interpretation.** Hanyok argues that individuals selectively presented SIGINT to support the Navy's attack claim, withholding information that would have challenged it. He distinguishes this from manufactured evidence and collusion at every level of government. His argument therefore concerns both the event and how intelligence reached decision-makers; it is not a finding that every official shared a deception plan. Source: Hanyok, *Skunks, Bogies, Silent Hounds, and the Flying Fish*, Cryptologic Quarterly, Winter/Spring 2000-2001, printed pages 1-3; public NSA document gallery, <https://www.nsa.gov/Press-Room/Digital-Media-Center/Document-Gallery/igphoto/2002751691/> .

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

① State the factual conflict between the two excerpts. Why does agreement about August 2 not resolve it?

② Evaluate which text is more useful for investigating the reported August 4 event and which establishes the public message. Explain your reasoning.

③ What interpretation does Hanyok offer about the reporting process? What broader claim would exceed the qualification supplied in Text B?

④ Why is 'the attack claim was wrong' different from 'Johnson knowingly lied'? Name evidence needed to investigate the second claim.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 100-130-word historian's note. Identify the factual conflict, evaluate the sources' different uses, and distinguish Hanyok's interpretation of reporting from a claim about Johnson's personal intent. End with one question that further evidence could help answer.

Compare and evaluate

Use specific evidence from both texts and follow the word range and final-response instructions above.

[illegible]

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Read two brief historical excerpts with editorial context. Only words inside quotation marks are verbatim. Text B continues into paragraph 3. Distinguish what happened from interpretations of how reports were handled. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the factual conflict between the two excerpts. Why does agreement about August 2 not resolve it?	Johnson described a repeated attack on August 4; Hanyok concluded no attack occurred that night. Agreement about the earlier clash does not prove a separate later event.
2	Evaluate which text is more useful for investigating the reported August 4 event and which establishes the public message. Explain your reasoning.	B offers a retrospective analysis of a wider intelligence record for investigating the event, although its methods still merit scrutiny. A directly establishes Johnson's public claims and stated limited response.
3	What interpretation does Hanyok offer about the reporting process? What broader claim would exceed the qualification supplied in Text B?	He argues that individuals selected intelligence to support the attack account and excluded contrary information. Claiming a deception conspiracy involving every official would exceed his explicit distinction from collusion at all levels.
4	Why is 'the attack claim was wrong' different from 'Johnson knowingly lied'? Name evidence needed to investigate the second claim.	The first concerns whether the event occurred; the second concerns Johnson's knowledge and intent. Dated briefings, messages and records of what he received before speaking would be relevant to the second claim.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Johnson's address reports a second attack on August 4, while Hanyok's later study concludes that no attack occurred that night. The address establishes the public message and stated limited response; the study is more useful for reassessing the event because it analyzes a broader intelligence record. That advantage does not remove the need to examine its methods. Hanyok also interprets the reporting process as selective presentation in support of the attack claim. His qualification about collusion prevents treating that finding as proof that every official shared a deception plan. Establishing an incorrect claim is different from establishing a speaker's knowledge of its falsity. What reliable information had Johnson received before delivering the address?

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

The excerpts contain 21 quoted words from Johnson and five from Hanyok; surrounding context is editorial paraphrase. Hanyok is the named author, not an anonymous group of historians. His findings concern the August 4 event and selective reporting, with an explicit limit on all-level collusion. Accept careful alternatives. The model ends with a question as required.