

Events That Shaped Debate

Analyze causes, results, and importance in recent U.S. history.

5.5.B “analyze various issues and events of the 21st century such as the War on Terror and the 2008 presidential election; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell why an event happened, and circle details that tell what happened because of it. Number one issue people discussed for each event.

Two Events, Big Questions

- ① After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States began what leaders called the War on Terror. The goal was to fight terrorist groups that use violence to create fear and influence governments. U.S. forces entered Afghanistan in 2001 because al-Qaeda, the group responsible for the attacks, was based there and was protected by the Taliban government.
- ② In 2008, voters chose between Barack Obama and John McCain for president. The election took place during a serious economic crisis, when many people lost jobs or homes. Obama won the election and became the first African American president of the United States. His victory showed that voters considered many issues, including the economy, the wars abroad, and hopes for change.
- ③ These events were different, but each shaped debates about the nation's future. The War on Terror led people to discuss safety, military action, and the cost of long wars. The 2008 election led people to discuss leadership and economic recovery. When historians analyze events, they look at causes, results, and the questions people faced. This helps explain why an event mattered beyond one day.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did U.S. forces enter Afghanistan in 2001?

2 How did the economic crisis affect the issues people considered during the 2008 election?

3 What is one issue people discussed because of the War on Terror, and what is one issue people discussed because of the 2008 election?

4 Why was Barack Obama's victory in 2008 historically important?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences explaining how one event in the passage shaped debates about the nation's future. Include a cause or situation, an issue people discussed, and why the event mattered.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell why an event happened, and circle details that tell what happened because of it. Number one issue people discussed for each event. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did U.S. forces enter Afghanistan in 2001?	U.S. forces entered Afghanistan because al-Qaeda was based there and was protected by the Taliban government.
2	How did the economic crisis affect the issues people considered during the 2008 election?	Because many people lost jobs or homes, the economy and economic recovery became important issues.
3	What is one issue people discussed because of the War on Terror, and what is one issue people discussed because of the 2008 election?	For the War on Terror, people discussed safety, military action, or the cost of long wars. For the election, people discussed leadership or economic recovery.
4	Why was Barack Obama's victory in 2008 historically important?	He became the first African American president of the United States.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The 2008 election happened during an economic crisis when many people lost jobs or homes. People discussed the economy, economic recovery, and leadership. The election mattered because Obama became the first African American president and voters considered important national issues.

Accept equivalent details from the passage and clear cause, result, or significance relationships. For Part 3, accept either event if the response includes all three requested elements and is historically accurate.