

Taking Sides: When Historians Disagree **(How do you know what happened/what is the truth?)**

*Issue: The Mexican American War (1846-1848):
An Exercise in American Imperialism?*

1. What is the definition of imperialism?
2. Briefly describe the lead-up to the Mexican-American war (use hand-out).
3. Summarize historian Ruiz's argument in your own words. What evidence does he provide to support his argument? (provide at least 3 pieces of evidence)
4. Do you find Ruiz's argument/use of evidence persuasive? Why or why not?
5. Summarize historian Graebner's argument in your own words. What evidence does he provide to support his argument? (provide at least 3 pieces of evidence)
6. Do you find Graebner's argument/use of evidence persuasive? Why or why not?

**The questions above will serve as your foundation for helping prepare you for the class debate. I also encourage you to take additional notes and/or annotate your reading for a more in-depth understanding. See debate grading rubric below. One of your comments must address your opponent's argument. You will be assigned to argue from one of the two positions on the day of the debate (which may disagree with your own position).

Debate grading rubric (if present):

3 original comments (with factual/relevant evidence) = 100

2 comments (" ") = 85

1 comment (" ") = 70

No comments and/or original/relevant/factual thoughts = 50

*Those not present for the debate will be expected to complete the questions above and will be required to write a five-paragraph response to the issue question above based on your reading of both historians (due on day you return to class). For full credit, your response should include and address evidence from both historians.