

This is from Secondary Ed History URLP.

"Most students (90%) were able to identify slavery as a cause of the Civil War. Far fewer (only 20%) were able to tie the issue of slavery to the economy of the South. In their essay, Student A correctly stated that 'The cotton industry needed lots of labor to harvest their crop. Abolition of slavery would mean having to pay workers and would have ruined the economy of the south.' Students B's answer was more typical, simply stating that 'Having slaves was a way of life in the south and abolitionists threatened that way of life'. Clearly, the majority of students understood that slavery was a key issue leading to the Civil War but only a few had the further understanding that slavery was also an integral part of the south's economy. I think that an additional reading that would clarify the importance of slavery or an exercise calculating how much it would take to pay workers and how devastating that would be to both small and large cotton farmers would have helped to clarify that slavery was an economic rather than just a social issue."

This is from Elementary Literacy URLP.

"By reviewing the graph, you can see that the majority of the class (70%) misunderstood using the events of the story for description of the characters. Students simply described the events of the story instead of using the events to inform their understanding of the character. The students seem to struggle to differentiate between presenting the events of the story and pulling information about the characters from the events of the story. Work sample of focus Student 1 when writing a description of the princess, instead of telling what she looks like, acts like, and what she does, she tells about some events in the story such as the princess ran away and met the prince. She tells about the princess wanting to marry a prince, and how she is tricked into marrying a castle servant. What the successful students were able to do was to pull out characteristics of the princess from her actions such as the princess was unhappy which caused her to run away. She was happy when she met the prince, but was sad when she returned to the castle to learn that she had to marry someone the king had picked."