Name: _____ 12/11/19

**Analyzing "The Path to Disunion"**

**Throughout the 1850s, repeated debates and conflicts over the politics of slavery increased sectional debates to the point of an impending secessionist crisis by 1860. Today you will analyze how these conflicts contributed to the coming of the secession crisis in 1860.**

**Sectionalism Scale** (sectionalism: differences or divisions between different parts of the country that cause people to put the interests of their region or state over those of the nation). For each event, you will decide how much sectionalism each event caused, using the scale below. It essentially goes from 0 (no conflict) to 10 (ready to rip each other's heads off). In addition, list who would you say is most responsible for each event (ex: a specific person, group of people, section of gov, etc)?

0----------1----------2----------3----------4----------5----------6----------7----------8----------9----------10

(States don't have regional perspective on issue - view issue from state perspective) (States in 1 region share same perspective on issue; regional perspectives on issue differ) (Regional perspectives on issue differ enough to require compromise solution) (Regional perspectives differ to point where compromise is impossible; violence is likely)

| Event | Sectionalism Ranking (1-10) & blame? | Summary/Explanation |
|---|---|---|
| The Kansas-Nebraska Act & Bleeding Kansas | | |
| The Caning of Sumner | | |
| Election of 1856 & the Republican Party | | |

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| Event | Sectionalism Ranking (1-10) & blame? | Summary/Explanation |
|---|---|---|
| The Lecompton Constitution | | |
| The Dred Scott Decision | | |
| John Brown & Harpers Ferry | | |

**Some people contend that the Civil War was the result of a failure to, or lack of, compromise over slavery. Historian David Blight, on the other hand, contends that "the real story, the great tragedy of the coming of the Civil War, was that there was no middle left anymore in American politics." With which statement do you agree? Explain using evidence and reasoning. Then, decide if you think there was a "point of no return" and explain either what it was or why you do not think there was one. (You are not limited to just the events above).**