

Effective FQs

Many students ask about my expectations concerning the FQs. Let me take this opportunity to provide further guidance concerning this important feature of the course. Most fundamentally, the FQs that are listed for a particular class period must be answered **for that period**. No credit is given for late FQ responses. High quality responses share at least three fundamental features. First, they find, describe, and react to Foner's answer/argument/claim concerning the question. Second, they provide evidence by way of examples that tend to support the argument/claim (or, in some cases, examples that tend to disprove or complicate the claim). In our case, this evidence will initially come from the text and VOF primary source readings. Third, the response should consider various perspectives, remembering that we are approaching American history with an emphasis on diversity. (Therefore, saying something like "the South did this or that" is not effective because the South did nothing, people did it, and there was no unitary North or South then or now – get specific about to whom you are referring). The FQs will help us to have meaningful discussions and will serve as effective practice and preparation for the exams.