

Newspapers and Public Opinion

I. Secede

South Carolina seceded from the United States on Dec 20, 1860. Newspapers and telegraphs broke the news to a continent more connected than ever. Read the article "[Commercial View of Secession](#)" that was widely circulated at the time of South Carolina's declaration.

How does this article appear compared to those on the rest of the page?

Who do you think the intended audience is?

What is the main argument(s) for this particular article?

How do you think this might be written if a state seceded today?

Now find another article from the dates of any state's secession:

South Carolina: December 20, 1860

Florida: January 10, 1861

Georgia: January 19, 1861

Texas: February 1, 1861

Arkansas: May 6, 1861

Tennessee: June 8, 1861 ([Help](#))

Mississippi: January 9, 1861

Alabama: January 11, 1861

Louisiana: January 26, 1861 ([Help](#))

Virginia: April 17, 1861

North Carolina: May 20, 1861 ([Help](#))

What is the tone of the article?

How does it compare with the previous article you read (*Commercial View*)?

II. War

Select an article from one of the following Chronicling America topics pages:

[Fort Sumter](#), [Ironclads](#), [Gettysburg](#), [Ballooning](#), [Civil War Maps](#)

What is the tone and placement of the article?

What sort of information is provided (think of who is the audience)?

Is there imagery with your story?

What other sorts of news stories are going on amidst your article?

III. Resolution

Examine the two pages from the [Brownlow's Knoxville Whig, and rebel ventilator](#) and the [Star of the North](#) from the end of the war.

Compare and contrast the two pages.

	Knoxville, TN	Similarities	Bloomsburg, PA
Audience			
Tone			
Main Points			