

- 1) Read the excerpt from Edmund G. Ross on Andrew Johnson's impeachment.
- 2) Annotate (mark-up) the document.
- 3) Answer the questions below.

In a large sense, the independence of the executive office as a coordinate branch of the government was on trial If . . . the President must step down . . . a disgraced man and a political outcast . . . upon insufficient proofs and from partisan considerations, the office of President would be degraded, cease to be a coordinate branch of the government, and ever after subordinated to the legislative will. It would practically have revolutionized our splendid political fabric into a partisan Congressional autocracy [rule by one branch]. . . . This government had never faced so insidious a danger . . . control by the worst element of American politics If Andrew Johnson were acquitted by a nonpartisan vote . . . America would pass the danger point of partisan rule and that intolerance which so often characterizes the sway of great majorities and makes them dangerous.

—Edmund G. Ross, articles from *Scribner's* and *Forum* magazines

- 1) What was the main reason Edmund Ross voted for acquittal?
 - a) To protect the independence of the presidency
 - b) Because he and Andrew Johnson were friends
 - c) Because he and Andrew Johnson were in the same political party
 - d) To gain political power for himself
- 2) According to Ross, why had Andrew Johnson been impeached?
 - a) Because he was a bad president
 - b) Because he was a criminal
 - c) Because he opposed the 13th Amendment
 - d) Because members of one political party opposed him
- 3) Edmund Ross believed that if Andrew Johnson were removed from office
 - a) There was danger to the system of checks and balances
 - b) The executive branch of the government would be weakened
 - c) Johnson would be a political outcast
 - d) All of the above
- 4) What did Edmund Ross think about the evidence brought against Andrew Johnson?
 - a) Was false
 - b) Was insufficient to prove the case
 - c) Showed that he was guilty
 - d) Violated the 13th Amendment
- 5) Create a *#hashtag* for this reading.