**Background Information:**

**cwB**

**John Brown** (May 9, 1800 – December 2, 1859) was a white American abolitionist who believed armed insurrection was the only way to overthrow the institution of slavery in the United States. During the 1856 conflict in Kansas, Brown commanded forces at the Battle of Black Jack and the Battle of Osawatomie. Brown's followers also killed five slavery supporters at Pottawatomie. In 1859, Brown led an unsuccessful raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry that ended with his capture. Brown's trial resulted in his conviction and a sentence of death by hanging.

**Primary Source #1 on John Brown:**

**No Title. New York, New York, New York Tribune (19 October 1859)**

The Insurrection, so called, at Harper's Ferry, proves a verity. Old Brown of Osawatamie, who was last heard of on his way from Missouri to Canada with a band of runaway slaves, now turns up in Virginia, where he seems to have been for some months plotting and preparing for a general stampede of slaves. How he came to be in Harper's Ferry, and in possession of the U. S. Armory, is not yet clear; but he was probably betrayed or exposed, and seized the Armory as a place of security until he could safely get away. The whole affair seems the work of a madman; but John Brown has so often looked death serenely in the face that what seems madness to others doubtless wore a different aspect to him. He had twenty-one men with him, mostly white, who appear to have held the Armory from 9 P. M. of Sunday till 7 of Tuesday (yesterday) morning, when it was stormed by Col. Lee and a party of U. S. Marines, and its defenders nearly all killed or mortally wounded. Old Brown was severely wounded and his son -- (we believe his last surviving son) -- killed. Of the original twenty-two, fifteen were killed, two mortally wounded, and two unhurt. The other three had pushed northward on Monday morning guiding a number of fugitive slaves through Maryland. These were of course sharply pursued and fired on, but had not been taken at our last advices.

Harper's Ferry was full of soldiers and militia men yesterday, and more are constantly pouring in. never before was such an uproar raised by twenty men as by Old Brown and his confederates in this deplorable affair.

-- There will be enough to heap execration on the memory of these mistaken men. we leave this work to the fit hands and tongues of those who regard the fundamental axioms of the Declaration of Independence as "glittering generalities." Believing that the way to Universal Emancipation lies not through insurrection, civil war and bloodshed, but through , discussion, and the quick diffusion of sentiments of humanity and justice, we deeply regret this outbreak; but remembering that, if their fault was grievous, grievously have they answered it, we will not, by one reproachful word, disturb the bloody shrouds wherein John Brown and his compatriots are sleeping. They dared and died for what they felt to be the right, though in a manner which seems to us fatally wrong. Let their epitaphs remain unwritten until the not distant day when no slave shall clank his chains in the shades of Monticello or by the graves of Mount Vernon.

**Primary Source #2 on John Brown:**

**The Execution of Brown. Raleigh, North Carolina, Register (9 December 1859)**

We give to-day full accounts of the scenes attending the execution of the traitor, murderer, and thief, John Brown. He died, as he lived, a hardened criminal, and when the wretched confederates shall have paid the penalty of their crimes, we hope that their allies and sympathizers at the North will realize the fact that the South has the power to protect her soil and property, and will exercise it in spite of all the measures which can be levelled at her by the abolitionists and their aiders and abettors.

Much very silly ridicule has been aimed at Gov. Wise for assembling a large military force at Charlestown. He can very well afford to treat it with the contempt it deserves. Had he not assembled that force, an attempt to rescue Brown would have been made, blood would have been spilled, and in the end the Union would have been burst asunder. Gov. Wise lacks a great deal of being an especial favorite of ours, but believing that in the present emergency he has acted properly, we do not hesitate to say so.

**In an essay, *Compare* and *Contrast* the two articles. Using your own historical knowledge and the information in the text, explain which article best depicts the events described.**