Was John Brown a Hero or a Murderer?

Even today, 150 years after John Brown’s ill-fated raid at Harpers Ferry, controversy surrounds Brown’s actions. Some people believe that he was a hero and that his ultimate goal – ending slavery – justified his use of violence. Other people believe that his use of fear and violence made him a terrorist.

Construct a thoughtful written response of approximately 200 words, with two quotes from a primary source.

Be sure to address the following:

1) What reasons did John Brown have for raiding Harper’s Ferry?
2) What are some of the events, situations in the country leading up to the 1859 raid?
3) What were reactions of people around the country?
4) Was John Brown a hero or terrorist? Explain.