

### Explanatory Essay Draft

In *Sugar Changed the World* by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos, the authors write a longer informational text to inform and engage the reader on the history and impact of the sugar industry. In “Louisiana Sugarcane Farmer”, the producers make a video to share the life of a sugar farmer. This text and video share a common topic, but they also convey conflicting ideas. The conflicting ideas are in how they show the character of the sugar farmer. These conflicting ideas happen because of different interpretations.

In the informational text *Sugar Changed the World*, the authors convey the central idea that sugar has impacted the entire world in both positive and negative ways. The authors also have two supporting ideas: that life for a slave on a sugar plantation was brutal and dangerous, and that ideas of freedom spread around the world because of the connections made by the sugar and slave industry. The authors argue that this caused the end of slavery and bad governments in many countries. The authors use foreshadowing of events at the end of paragraphs or sections to convey these ideas. For example, at the end of Part Two, the authors write, “And indeed, it was when the enslaved Africans began to speak - in words and in actions - when Europeans began to see them as human, that the Age of Sugar also became the Age of Freedom.” (70) Part Two is all about the brutality of slavery. The authors end Part Two by giving clues about slavery’s connection to the Age of Freedom in Part 3. The authors also use details and direct language to convey the brutality of slavery and negative impact of sugar: “Guests at sugar plantations often remarked on how many one-armed people they saw.” (40) This shows it was common for slaves on sugar plantations to be injured while working.

In contrast, the producers of “Louisiana Sugarcane Farmer” convey the central idea that, for some families, sugar farming represents something positive. They also have two supporting ideas: 1. There is pride in the Blanchard family passing down the sugar farm through five generations and 2. Continuing the farm is so important to the Blanchard family that Lane is taking a class on soil preservation through the Louisiana Master Farmers Program. The producers of the video use personal interviews of Lane Blanchard, the head farmer, Lane’s wife, and Lane’s parents, to show the personal side of the industry. In one interview, Lane says, “It’s the only thing I’ve ever done. Grew up on a farm; it’s the only thing I ever wanted to do.” This makes the viewer feel how important sugar farming is for this family. The producers also show Lane in the fields, the sugarcane, the refining process, and how Lane is learning to better preserve the soil and the future of the farm for his family.

“Louisiana Sugarcane Farmer” and *Sugar Changed the World* have the same topic, but they share information in different ways and have different interpretations. The video is more positive and shows how sugar is important to a family. In contrast, the text shows the positive and negative impact of sugar throughout history.

Sentence from the draft	Revised sentence	How are the two sentences different?	How does this difference clarify meaning and reader engagement