

NAME: _____ DUE DATE: _____

Westward Expansion: Generalization Analysis & Evaluation Practice

Instructions: Read each paragraph below, diagram the argument and answer the questions that follow. Use your “**Why Go West Chart**” for help.

Though Americans went west for many reasons, the most common and important reason was to get rich. Joe Meek chose the lonely life of a mountain man in hopes of cashing in on the lucrative fur trade. Henry Sager moved his family multiple times in the effort of finding cheap fertile land on which he could build a prosperous farm. And William Swain left a comfortable middle class existence to join the gold rush. The west lured many Americans away from stable comfortable lives and drove them to make grievous sacrifices in the search of riches.

(1) Diagram the generalization argument above.

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(2) Based on what your knowledge about the whole (Americans who went west), how good a generalization is this? (HINT: Does what is left out contradict the generalization?)

Americans who went west generally had troubled and conflict-ridden relationships with American Indians. Narcissa Whitman's condescension and "holier than-thou" disposition toward the Cayuse caused them to despise and eventually kill her. Gold rushers regularly found conflict with American Indians as they tried to push the Native Americans out of the way. And the continuous stream of homesteaders claiming land and trying to deny American Indians access to that land inevitably led to violence and war.

(3) Diagram the generalization argument above.

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(4) Based on what your knowledge about the whole (Americans who went west), how good a generalization is this? (HINT: Does what is left out contradict the generalization?)