

Mentor Text
(Side-By-Side)

Original Text	Student Sample
<p style="text-align: center;">Cuba and Uncle Sam: A Brief History <i>(Source: The Week January 10, 2015)</i></p> <p>When did Cuba become a nation?</p> <p>It won its independence from Spain at the end of the 19th Century — but only because of U.S. intervention. In the 1898 Spanish-American War, the U.S. supported the Cuban rebels who had been struggling for independence for years, and the powerful U.S. military drove the Spaniards out. But the help came with a price. After a brief occupation, the U.S. recognized an independent Cuban government but maintained a naval base at Guantánamo Bay and forbade Cuba from making treaties with other countries. American dollars poured in, and American corporations snapped up sugar plantations. In the 1930s, amid political turmoil, Cuban army Sgt. Fulgencio Batista seized power in a coup with the full support of the U.S. From the 1930s to the 1950s, Cuba became a playground for wealthy Americans.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panama and Uncle Sam: A Brief History</p> <p>When did Panama become a nation?</p> <p>It won its independence from Colombia at the beginning of the 20th Century – but only because of U.S. intervention. In the 1903 Panamanian Revolution, the U.S. supported the Panamanian rebels who had been struggling for independence for years, and with the backing of the U.S. military, drove the Colombians out. But the help came with a price. After brief negotiations, the U.S. recognized an independent Panamanian government but acquired the rights to build and control a canal through Panama. American dollars poured in, and American corporations snapped up business opportunities. In 1914, amid international scrutiny, construction of the Panama Canal was complete. From the early 1900s to the present, the Panama Canal became the preferred route for vessels traveling from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.</p>