

# Persuasive Summary: Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West



*“In the two decades he had lived and wandered in the West, Christopher Carson (Kit) had led an unaccountably full life.... it seemed he had done everything there was to do in the Western wilds—had been everywhere, met everyone.... Carson was present at the creation, it seemed. He had witnessed the dawn of the American West in all its vividness and brutality. In his constant travels he had caromed off of or intersected with nearly every major tribal group and person of consequence. He had lived the sweep of the Western experience with a directness few other men could rival.”*

Hampton Sides

**Assignment:** By nature persuasive arguments take a stand. You may find them controversial, even offensive, that is the nature of arguments. In this assignment you will identify opposing and supporting ideas for each persuasive argument in preparation for a dialogue about each of the main ideas.

**Instructions:** Read the text, “Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the West” by Hampton Sides. While reading identify both supporting (S) details and opposing (O) arguments for each of the persuasive arguments presented in the chart below. Be certain to indicate if the information provided is in opposition to the statement “O” or in support of the statement “S”. Supporting details need not be written in full sentences (see example). You may wish to write specific page number(s) where the information is found in order to reference the information during the discussion.

Persuasive Arguments	Supporting Ideas & Facts/ Opposing Arguments
<p><i>Example....</i>  <b>The cultures of Native peoples of the American Southwest were negatively affected by American expansion.</b></p>	<p><i>Example....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- O: Navajos, Utes, Kiowas &amp; Comanches all raided/ stole slaves (alone and w/Spanish) BEFORE Americans</li> <li>- S: Narbona (Navajo chief) raiding was a cultural norm (rarely were others hurt- (cultural fear of death- skinwalkers) (pg 24-25)</li> <li>- S: Most Navajo simply desired to be left in peace</li> <li>- O: Europeans brought things that improved Native culture (domesticated animals sheep/horses/ cattle &amp; domesticated crops: peach orchards)</li> </ul>





