**American History Spark**  
Copy the title and the prompt into your notes. Then respond in 3-5 sentences.

**Sp44: “Murderer or Martyr”**

A passionate abolitionist named John Brown came up with an interesting scheme in 1857. His plan was to invade the south, liberate the slaves, and create a free state for the ex-slaves. In an attempt to provide slaves with weapons he attacked an arsenal in Virginia and several innocent people lost their lives. Brown was tried for treason and murder, found guilty, and hanged. Was he a murderer or a martyr? Explain.