

Student Assignment

Student Instructions

Please read the Background Essay for this lesson. Also read the entire set of nine primary source documents provided. Finally, read the two “Point of View” paragraphs below. Then write out brief answers to the questions asked about these paragraphs. Use your answers to help you take part in a class discussion about slavery and the Constitution. In the discussion, share varying responses to the following essential question.

Essential Question: Were the Constitution’s compromises over slavery justified?

In-Class Discussion: Clarify Your Views and Discuss Them with Others

Take a few brief notes in response to each of the following questions. Use your notes to help you take part in an all-class discussion about slavery and the Constitution.

1. Of the nine sources provided, list two that best support “Point of View I.”
2. Comment on some specific details from those sources that help explain why you chose them.
3. Of the nine sources provided, list two that best support “Point of View II.”
4. Comment on some specific details from those sources that help explain why you chose them.
5. For Homework: Write a brief dialogue between William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass (see Sources 8 and 9). In the dialogue, have these two abolitionist figures debate the essential question for this lesson. Be sure to have each man refer to specific portions of some of the sources for this lesson. As a class share some of these invented dialogues and discuss them.