Emancipation 1861 to 1863

Focus Activity

Use the following excerpts from an article in the *Sacramento Daily Union* to engage students’ interest in the topic of emancipation. The article makes some provocative statements that should generate discussion.

Document A

We assume that the total abolition of African slavery in the United States is socially and physically an impossibility. Its attempt would result in the annihilation of the black race. The two races cannot live together upon terms of equality, and as a natural and inevitable consequence, the superior would subjugate, reduce the inferior again to slavery, or totally annihilate it. To liberate four millions of ignorant and half-civilized negroes among those who formerly owned them, could not terminate otherwise than in a war of extermination. To remove them from the coun-

Therefore, those who anticipate the abolition of slavery as one of the consequences of this rebellion, if there are any such in the country, are, in our judgment, doomed to disappointment. It may, and probably will, result in the total destruction [of the political power of slavery in the United States. It will never again rise to a position, as a political element, which will enable it, as in times past, to control and direct the policy and destiny of the nation.

source: *Sacramento Daily Union*, October 5, 1861

Help the students analyze Document A using the following questions;

1. What strong descriptive words are used in the source?
2. When and where was the source written or produced?
3. What type of document is this?
4. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
5. What was different about this time from ours?
6. Who is the intended audience of the source?
7. What are the *Sacramento Union* editors’ opinions about emancipation in 1861?
Task
Students will analyze each of the following documents and compare them with Document A. Each document will be examined for evidence of how white citizens’ opinions about emancipation changed from 1861 to 1863.

Document B

The announcement that General Hunter has issued a proclamation in which he proclaims martial law in his military department and freedom to slaves as a military necessity, is a fact pregnant with consequences. It was unex-pected fate for the policy of the Admin-

That every rebel in the South who has taken up arms against the National Government ought to lose his negro property is a proposition few loyal men will dispute, and if the fight continues for a year or two longer—or until the issue is presented of the Union without slavery or disunion with slavery, the Union will be maintained and slavery will perish. But be-fore that day has come, the rebellion will be sub-

effected in a century of agitation. The Secessionists have proved the most terrible of Abolitionists; they are destroying that kind of property at the rate of hundreds weekly. The very men who would have destroyed the Union, if in their power, to protect, as they claimed, the institution of slavery, have forced the nation into a war which has nearly destroyed the value of that kind of property. It is stated by telegraph

source: Sacramento Daily Union, May 19, 1862
Document B: Analysis Questions

1. When and where was the source written or produced?
2. What type of document is this?
3. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
4. What was different about this time from ours?
5. Who is the intended audience of the source?
6. How is this source different from Document A?
7. Why might the length of the war determine the fate of slavery in the United States?
8. What opinions regarding emancipation do the Union’s editors express in May of 1862?
   How can you use this source to answer the question, “How did Sacramentans’ opinions about emancipation change from 1861 to 1863?”
The main feature of the news by telegraph from the East is the proclamation by President Lincoln. Sixteen months after the inauguration of the rebellion, while the sound of the enemy's cannon is heard in the vicinity of the National Capital, and the rebels are exultingly proclaiming that the institution of slavery is the chief support of the revolutionary movement, the decree is issued, in the exercise of the war power, which makes the penalty of persistence in treason the abolishment of slavery. In addition to this announcement, we have the assurance that the Confiscation law is to be fully enforced, and a strict compliance with the new article of war, forbidding the return of fugitive slaves to their masters by persons in the military and naval service of the United States, will be required. If aught had been needed to

source: *Sacramento Daily Union*, September 24, 1862

**Document C: Analysis Questions**

1. When and where was the source written or produced?
2. What type of documents is this?
3. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
4. What was different about this time from ours?
5. Who is the intended audience of the source?
6. How is this source different from Documents A and B?
7. What opinions regarding emancipation do the *Union*’s editors express in September of 1862? How can you use this source to answer the question, “How did Sacramentans’ opinions about emancipation change from 1861 to 1863?”
Document D

New Emancipation Day.—We are informed that the colored citizens of Sacramento have resolved to celebrate the coming New Year’s Day, in honor of the President’s proclamation of emancipation, which is to go into effect on that day. What the celebration will be, we cannot say. A meeting recently held was about equally divided between a festival (alias a supper and dance) and “preaching and praying” in the church on Seventh street. Whether victory will perch on the banners of the extreme right or the left wing, or whether, as on the first of August last, there will be a “double-headed” celebration, time will determine.

source: Sacramento Daily Union, December 29, 1862

Document D: Analysis Questions

1. When and where was the source written or produced?
2. What type of document is this?
3. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
4. What was different about this time from ours?
5. Who is the intended audience of the source?
6. How is this source different from the other sources?
7. How can you use this source to answer the question, “How did Sacramentans’ opinions about emancipation change from 1861 to 1863?”
Document E

Proclamation Salutes.—At eleven o’clock A. M. on New Year’s Day a salute of one hundred guns was fired on the levee, between J and K streets, as an indorsement of the anticipated proclamation of President Lincoln, emancipating the slaves of the secession States. The brass six-pounder recently brought up from Benicia was used for the purpose. A salute had been fired with the same gun at midnight at Camp Union to welcome in the new year. Although we have not as yet any information direct of the proclamation having been issued, it will be seen by the telegraphic intelligence this morning that there is but little room for doubt that the President has boldly and manfully redeemed the great pledge made to his countrymen three months ago, and stricken a direct and fatal blow at the cause of all our national troubles.

source: Sacramento Daily Union, January 3, 1863

Document E: Analysis Questions

1. When and where was the source written or produced?
2. What type of document is this?
3. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
4. What was different about this time from ours?
5. Who is the intended audience of the source?
6. How is this source different from Document A?
7. What opinions regarding emancipation do the Union’s editors express in January of 1863? How can you use this source to answer the question, “How did Sacramentans’ opinions about emancipation change from 1861 to 1863?”
Document F

CHEERING THE PROCLAMATION—On Saturday night, when the crowd of residents and strangers who were waiting in the reading room of the Orleans for the extra had learned its contents a F.F. Fargo arose and proposed three cheers for the proclamation. They were given with huzzas of joy, which welled up loudly from the public heart, the finest chords of which had been so delicately yet so powerfully touched. In two minutes thereafter we heard a young man, who is a stranger here, say in private conversation to a friend, “What a change! If four years ago, any man had dared, in this room and in this crowd, to make such a proposition, he would have been kicked from the house and probably thrown from the river. Now every man rejoices at it – at least no one objects, and I did not see any who refused to cheer. And war has made all this change.” We may also state in this connection, that the colored population were deeply moved by it, and kept up their Saturday night’s rejoicings to a late-hour. In many places, observing the utmost decorum.

source: Sacramento Bee, January 5, 1863

Document F: Analysis Questions

1. When and where was the source written or produced?
2. What type of document is this?
3. Is this source a primary or secondary source?
4. What was different about this time from ours?
5. Who is the intended audience of the source?
6. How is this source different from Document A?
7. How can you use this source to answer the question, “How did Sacramentans’ opinions about emancipation change from 1861 to 1863?”
**Writing Task**

Write a paragraph describing how opinions about emancipation changed from 1861 when the American Civil War began to 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation took effect. Use information from Document A as evidence of how Sacramento’s white citizens were thinking about emancipation in 1861. Then, use evidence from at least two other documents to show how thinking about emancipation changed as the war continued.

| Rubric |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| **Category** | **Mastery** | **Proficient** | **Basic** | **Below Basic** |
| Organization | Paragraph contains an introduction that includes a background, definition, and thesis. Sentences are well developed and organized with evidence that supports thesis. | Paragraph contains most elements of an introduction that includes a background, definition and thesis. Sentences are mostly well developed with evidence that supports thesis. | Paragraph may lack elements of an introduction. Sentences are recognizable but may not be well developed and may not support thesis. Organization and development is adequate. | Paragraph lacks elements of an introduction. May lack thesis. Sentences may not be recognizable or are poorly organized and developed. |
| Documents | Uses Document A and 2 other documents (B, C, or E) effectively to support thesis. Documents are correctly cited. | Uses Document A and at least 1 other document (B, C, or E) somewhat effectively and mostly accurately. Cites documents accurately. | Contains limited reference to documents. Interpretation may be inaccurate or irrelevant to thesis. Citations missing or inaccurate. | Make no reference to documents or interpretation shows a lack of familiarity with documents. |
| Analysis | Demonstrates analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of evidence. Provides logical analysis of evidence to support thesis. | Shows some analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of evidence. Includes some analysis of evidence with limited insight. | Limited analysis. Analysis may be irrelevant to argument. | No analysis. Provides a summary or retelling of events. |
| Mechanics | No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors | Few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors | Several grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors | Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. |