

SAMPLE ANSWERS: Documents Organizer

Document 1:

Title: The Dis-United States- A Black Business

Issue: Dissention among the United States over slavery

Author's Position: The cartoon depicts the high tensions over the issue of slavery within the United States. The North and South were at odds over it. The cartoon even depicted the difference in socio-economic status among the classes of the north and the south based on their dress/style.

Document 2:

Author: William Lloyd Garrison

Issue: slavery

Author's Position: The Liberator Newspaper was published in response to the growing abolitionist movement to abolish slavery. He was known for his passionate words about the subject and called for the immediate end of slavery. He believed the rights outlined in the Declaration of Independence did apply to ALL people.

Based on these documents,
what conclusions can you
draw?

Answers may vary: But students should come to an understanding that there are always two sides to every social and political movement. Historical movements that attempt to achieve/prevent political or social change are difficult and often result in varying viewpoints. Change isn't easy, and rarely is everyone on the same side.

Document 3:

Author: Alexander Stephens, VP of Confederate States of America, 1861

Issue: slavery/civil war

Author's Position: The author depicts his passionate opinion about the need for slavery to remain intact. He claimed that the Founders were wrong in their stance on "all men created equal" and stated that those words were not directed toward slaves.

Document 4:

Author: Congress

Issue: Runaway slaves

Author's Position: This law passed by Congress, stated that slaves must be returned to owners if found, even if they were recovered in a "free" northern state. This law also made the federal government responsible for finding, returning, and trying escaped slaves.