Freedmen School Request

Lesson 4: Primary Source: Freedmen’s Bureau Request

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<th>Regiment</th>
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<td>Elevation</td>
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Sergeant John Sweeny – Kentucky Black Sergeant
Nashville, Tennessee
October 8, 1865

“Dear Tennessee Freedmen’s Bureau Assistant Commissioner,
I have the honor to call to your attention To the necessity of having a school for The benefit of our regiment. We have never Had an institution of that sort and we stand deeply indeed of instruction, the majority of us having been slaves. We Wish to have some benefit of education To make of ourselves capable of business In the future . . . what we want in a general system of education In our regiment for our moral and literary elevation.”

Q: Why does Sergeant Sweeny think his regiment needs a school?

Q: What is the author’s purpose?

Q: Based on this primary source, what can you conclude?