

Reconstruction Primary Source Extended Constructed Response

Reconstruction is one of the most misunderstood eras in United States history. While it was truly revolutionary in granting and guaranteeing rights to former slaves, the era ended with many of those newly secured rights being restricted or even revoked without federal government intervention.

Directions: You are an investigative reporter for the *National Sun*, which is the leading national tabloid newspaper of the late 1800s. You have been assigned the task of explaining what rights were extended and guaranteed (by amending the Constitution) to the Freedmen during the early phases of Reconstruction. After your detailed explanation of those rights, you are to provide an analysis of how well those rights have been protected by the various Southern States and the Freedmen's Bureau under Reconstruction. To do this analysis, you will be provided with several first-hand accounts of events and how the local authorities responded to them during this tumultuous period.

Required Components and Rubric

Your essay should include the following:

- Detailed description of what the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments provided and guaranteed.
- Analysis of efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau to secure rights and protections for Freemen vs. the efforts of the local and state governments.

Point Total Breakdown

_____ 2 points	Topic sentence
_____ 2 points	Organization
_____ 4 points	Clear explanation of rights protected by the Amendments
_____ 4 points	Clear description and analysis of efforts of Freedmen's Bureau vs. efforts of state and local governments
_____ 4 points	Supporting evidence in the form of quotes or direct paraphrasing is present
_____ 2 points	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.
_____ 2 points	Typed, proofread, double spaced.
_____ 20 points	Points earned / available