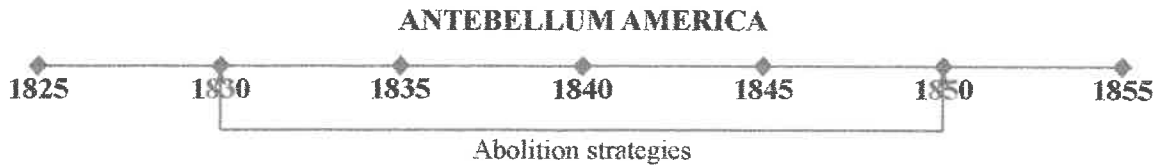


# LESSON 5: ABOLITIONISM

## Student Handout 1: Problem



You are an abolitionist leader in the 1830s and 1840s. You are opposed to slavery and believe it should be stopped. You know from the accounts of runaway slaves that slaves are being mistreated, and you believe that slavery contradicts the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. How can slavery exist in a free society?

### PROBLEM 1—ABOLITIONIST PUBLIC POSITION ON SLAVERY

Which of the following positions will you take in public in regard to slavery? You can pick only one (or substitute your own idea):

- A. Slavery must end completely, it must end soon, and slaveowners should receive no compensation for their lost “property”
- B. Slavery must end completely and soon, but slaveowners should be compensated
- C. Slavery must end completely, but gradually, and slaveowners should be compensated
- D. Slavery must not be able to expand to new territories or states. If the number of slave states remains the same while the number of free states increases, slavery will gradually decline
- E. Your own idea

### PROBLEM 2—PUBLIC POSITION ON AFRICAN AMERICANS AFTER SLAVERY

Which of the following positions will you take in public in regard to African Americans after slavery is ended? You can pick only one:

- A. Equal rights for African Americans, including the right to vote
- B. No position on African Americans after slavery. Americans will work out the position of African Americans gradually after slavery ends
- C. Freed slaves should be sent to Africa, back to their roots
- D. Your own idea

### PROBLEM 3—ABOLITIONIST STRATEGIES

Which of the following strategies will you use in order to stop slavery? You can pick as many as you'd like, but you must identify the three choices you favor the most.

- A. Arrange demonstrations against companies that use cotton from slave plantations
- B. Make speeches in Northern cities about the evils of slavery

LESSON 5: Handout 1, Page 2

- C. Make speeches in Southern cities about the evils of slavery
- D. Start a political party against slavery. If people have the opportunity to vote for abolition, it could bring an end to slavery.
- E. Boycott slave-plantation products
- F. Write pamphlets and books about the evils of slavery. These would be factual and supported by reliable sources, and would point out the documented atrocities of slavery. Next, distribute these pamphlets and books all over the country. Finally, write articles and editorials in newspapers to the same effect.
- G. Write novels (fiction) about the evils of slavery
- H. Send petitions to Congress about the evils of slavery
- I. Join the abolitionist movement with the movement for equal rights for women, and allow women to speak to audiences of both men and women
- J. Launch protests in the North against Northern officials who catch runaway slaves
- K. Provide funding and organization to smuggle guns to the South to start slave uprisings
- L. Organize violent protests against companies that use slave crops, such as cotton, or against banks or insurance companies that help slave plantations
- M. Call on slaves everywhere to rebel against their masters and fight their way to freedom
- N. Your own idea(s)