

# Lincoln On Kentucky DBQ

## Student Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Directions:

- Read the "Kentucky Excerpt" from each Lincoln letter presented on the DBQ webpage.
- Examine the image presented next to each excerpt.
- Answer the questions below.

### Document A: Lincoln to Mary Speed, September 27, 1841

1. Where did the events that Lincoln described in this letter occur?
2. Where were the slaves coming from, and where were they headed?
3. What can you infer about Lincoln's view on slavery from his descriptions of this encounter with slaves in Kentucky?
4. How did Lincoln describe the disposition of the slaves that he encountered in Kentucky? How did he rationalize this?
5. How does the picture presented corroborate Lincoln's view of slavery in Kentucky?

**Document B: Lincoln to Joshua Speed, August 24, 1855**

1. What does Lincoln point out about Speed's opinion on slavery?
2. What does Lincoln state Speed would rather see happen than lose his right to own slaves?
3. What can you infer Lincoln meant when he stated, "I acknowledge your rights and my obligations, under the constitution, in regard to slaves?"
4. Describe what still tormented Lincoln after eight years about his visit to Kentucky.
5. How does the description of slaves in the 1855 advertisement provide context to Lincoln's views on the treatment of slaves in Kentucky?

**Document C: Letter to Oliver Browning, September 22, 1861**

1. How did Lincoln distance his personal view of Fremont's declaration from his responsibility as President?
2. What did Lincoln fear Kentucky would do if Fremont's declaration was permitted?

3. Describe Lincoln's view of Kentucky's role in the Civil War.
4. In addition to maintaining Kentucky's neutrality, what does Lincoln suggest he must have in order to win the war?
5. Examine the political cartoon presented with document D. How does the opinion expressed by the author differ from Lincoln's view of Kentucky's neutrality?

**Document D: Letter to Albert Hodges, April 4, 1864**

1. Using your background knowledge on the Fremont declaration (Document C), explain why Lincoln would want to send this letter to the press in Kentucky?
2. What steps does Lincoln argue that he took in order to avoid military emancipation?
3. Why did Lincoln believe he had to emancipate the slaves after his attempts to avoid it failed?
4. What appeal does Lincoln make to those in Kentucky who might be questioning his decision?

5. How does the political cartoon depict the view that many might have had towards Lincoln in Kentucky?

**Historical Perspective**

What are historians saying about the topics discussed in Documents A-D?

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**Close Readings**

What additional context do the close readings provide?

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**DBQ Prompt:**

Abraham Lincoln referenced Kentucky in several letters and publications throughout his life and Presidency. Choose one of the "Kentucky Excerpts" from the "Lincoln on Kentucky" webpage and explain the significance of the state in mind of Lincoln throughout his life and Presidency.

Your response should be at least 1 page, typed, double-spaced, but no longer than 2 pages. Be sure to include at least two references to the other "Kentucky Excerpts", as well as add at least one historian perspective from the links provided.