

Name:
Period:
English 7
Date:

Slavery - Research Simulation Task 2

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Writing Task:

You have learned about slave rebellions during the time of slavery by reading two articles, “Nat Turner’s Rebellion” and “The Story of Denmark Vessey,” along with viewing the a video clip on Haiti’s Slave Revolt.

In an essay, compare the purposes of the different sources. Then analyze how each source uses explanations, demonstrations, or descriptions to accomplish its purpose. Be sure to write important similarities and differences between the information gained from the video and the information provided in the articles. Support your response with evidence from each source.

What questions do you have to answer in the essay?

Text 1: [Nat Turner’s Rebellion](#)

Born on October 2, 1800, in Southampton County, Virginia, Nat Turner was only a young boy when people heard him describing events that had occurred before he was born. An intelligent child, he was soon labeled as a prophet and became deeply religious.

In 1821, Turner ran away from his master, Samuel Turner, but came back after a month because he had a vision in which he was told to return. After his master died the following year, Nat Turner was sold to a man named Thomas Moore. In 1830, Turner was moved to the home of Joseph Travis, the new husband of Thomas Moore's widow. His official owner, Putnum Moore, was still a child.

During this time Turner continued to have visions, seeing lights in the sky and interpreting them through prayer. He took a solar eclipse as a sign to stage an insurrection. On the night of August 21, 1831, Turner and six of his men met in the woods to make plans. They snuck out to the Travis household in the middle of the night, killing the entire family as it slept. They continued going from house to house, killing the white people they encountered. Turner's force eventually consisted of more than 40 slaves, most of them traveling on horseback.

On the afternoon of August 22, Turner started marching towards Jerusalem, the closest town. But by then, word of the rebellion had gotten out to the whites, and they were confronted by a group of militia. Turner and his men attempted to attack another house, but several of the rebels were captured. The remaining force then fought state and federal troops in a skirmish in which one slave was killed and many escaped, including Turner. In the end, the rebels killed at least 50 people.

Nat Turner hid in several different places near the Travis farm before he was captured on October 30. His “confession,” dictated to Thomas R. Gray, was taken while he was imprisoned in the county jail.

On November 5, Turner was tried in the Southampton County Court and sentenced to death. He was hanged, and then skinned, on November 11.

In total, the state executed 55 people and banished many more. The state reimbursed the slaveholders for their slaves. But in the hysterical climate that followed Turner's revolt, close to 200 black people—many of whom had nothing to do with the rebellion—were murdered by white mobs. Slaves as far away as North Carolina were accused of having a connection with the revolt and were subsequently executed.

Text 2: [The Story of Denmark Vesey](#)

From *This Far by Faith*

In 1771, fourteen-year-old Denmark Vesey was transported from St. Thomas to Cape Francais by slave trader Captain Joseph Vesey. Upon a return trip to Cape Francais, Captain Vesey was forced to reclaim Denmark, who his master said was suffering from epileptic fits. Denmark accompanied Captain Vesey on his trading voyages until the Captain retired to Charleston, never again showing signs of epilepsy.

In 1799, Vesey won the lottery and bought his freedom for \$600. He could not purchase the freedom of his wife and children, however, and some claimed that this fact motivated his crusade to destroy the institution of slavery.

Vesey joined the newly formed African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1817. He became a "class leader," preaching to a small group in his home during the week. White Charlestonians constantly monitored the African church, disrupting services and arresting members. An angry Vesey began preaching from the Old Testament, particularly Exodus, and taught followers that they were the New Israelites, the chosen people whose enslavement God would punish with death.

In 1822, Vesey and other leaders from the African Church began plotting a rebellion. His chief lieutenant was an East African priest named Gullah Jack, who led conspirators in prayer and rituals and gave them amulets to protect them in battle. Vesey's theology of liberation, combined with Gullah Jack's African mysticism, inspired potential participants, and word of the rebellion grew. Vesey set the date for revolt on July 14, and men from Charleston and surrounding plantations planned to seize Charleston's arsenals and guard houses, kill the Governor, set fire to the city, and kill every white man they saw. But in June, several nervous slaves leaked the plot to their masters, and Charleston authorities began arresting leaders. Vesey was captured on June 22, and he and the conspirators were brought to trial. Despite torture and the threat of execution, the men refused to give up their followers. On July 2nd, Denmark Vesey and five other men were hanged. Gullah Jack was executed several days later, with the total number of executions reaching 35 by August 9th.

In the aftermath of the Vesey rebellion, the African Church was burned down and authorities passed a series of laws further restricting the rights of Charleston slaves. Vesey became a martyr for African-Americans and a symbol for the abolitionist movement, while the increasingly militant politics of white America dragged the country toward Civil War.

Video

Haitian Slave Revolt

The French Revolution of 1789 not only propelled all of Europe into a war, but also touched off slave uprisings in the Caribbean. On Saint Domingue, the free people of color began the chain of rebellion when French planters would not grant them citizenship as decreed by the National Assembly of France in its "Declaration of the Rights of Man."

A bloody, thirteen-year revolution ensued, a complex web of wars among and between slaves, whites, free people of color, France, Spain and Britain that would eventually create the first independent black nation in the Western world.

In 1794 France built upon the "Declaration of the Rights of Man" and officially abolished slavery in its colonies. Toussaint L'Ouverture, the leader of the Saint Domingue rebellion, abandoned his Spanish allies, joined the forces of the French Republic as a brigadier general, and turned his troops against Spain.

In 1797 Toussaint was made commander-in-chief of the island by the French Convention. Following the defeat of the Spanish and British forces, Toussaint began moving toward independence from France. With Toussaint as its Governor for life, St. Domingue was still technically a French colony, but was acting as an independent state.

In 1802, Napoleon Bonaparte, who had seized power in France in 1799, sought to restore slavery to the West Indies through political guile and military force. Toussaint was captured and exiled, but the fighting continued under the leadership of Jean Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe. On January 1, 1804, Dessalines proclaimed himself ruler of the new nation, which was called Haiti, a "higher place."

	Text 1	Text 2	Video
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Key Points			
Key Differences			

Research Simulation Outline

Introduction: Introduce the sources and their topics. Write your thesis statement. Your thesis should answer the main writing prompt question and tell the reader what you will be writing about in this essay.

Body paragraph 1: Begin with a topic sentence that explains what you'll be writing about in this paragraph. This paragraph should focus on the similarities between the sources. Provide strong pieces of evidence and then thoroughly explain how this evidence ties into your thesis. You should cite evidence from more than one source.

Body paragraph 2: Begin with a topic sentence that explains what you'll be writing about in this paragraph. This paragraph should focus on the differences between the sources. Provide strong pieces of evidence and then thoroughly explain how this evidence ties into your thesis. You should cite evidence from more than one source.

Conclusion: Restate your thesis and your main points from each paragraph. Answer the "So What?" question that tells the reader why your essay is worth reading.