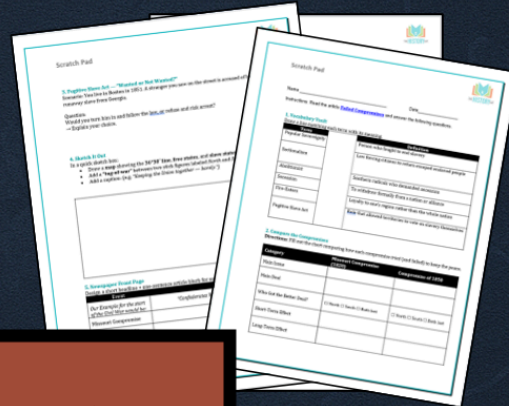
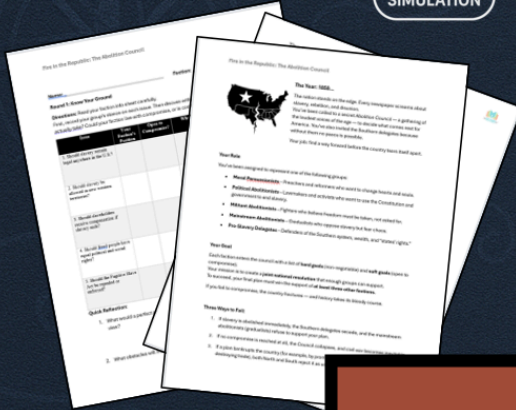


Debate the Issues



Reading & Activities



Abolitionist Council



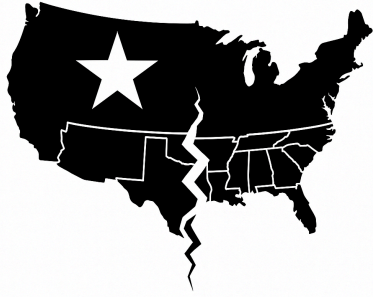
Criteria	4	3	2	1
Content
Organization
Style
Delivery
Teamwork

Reach a Compromise



Rubric Included





The Year: 1859...

The nation stands on the edge. Every newspaper screams about slavery, rebellion, and disunion.

You've been called to a secret *Abolition Council* — a gathering of the loudest voices of the age — to decide what comes next for America. You've also invited the Southern delegates because without them no peace is possible.

Your job: find a way forward before the country tears itself apart.

Your Role

You've been assigned to represent one of the following groups:

- **Moral Persuasionists** – Preachers and reformers who want to change hearts and souls.
- **Political Abolitionists** – Lawmakers and activists who want to use the Constitution and government to end slavery.
- **Militant Abolitionists** – Fighters who believe freedom must be taken, not asked for.
- **Mainstream Abolitionists** – Gradualists who oppose slavery but fear chaos.
- **Pro-Slavery Delegates** – Defenders of the Southern system, wealth, and “states’ rights.”

Your Goal

Each faction enters the council with a list of **hard goals** (non-negotiable) and **soft goals** (open to compromise). Your mission is to create a **joint national resolution** that enough groups can support.

To succeed, your final plan must win the support of **at least three other factions**.


If you fail to compromise, the country fractures — and history takes its bloody course.

Three Ways to Fail:

1. If slavery is abolished immediately, the Southern delegates secede, and the mainstream abolitionists (gradualists) refuse to support your plan.

2. If no compromise is reached at all, the Council collapses, and civil war becomes inevitable.
3. If a plan bankrupts the country (for example, by promising massive compensation or destroying trade), both North and South reject it as unrealistic.


Fire in the Republic: The Abolition Council





MILITANT ABOLITIONISTS

BACKGROUND


By the mid-1800s, decades of preaching and political debate had failed to end slavery. A small but determined group of abolitionists decided that freedom would never be won through talk alone — it had to be taken.



HOW THEY FELT ABOUT SLAVERY	KEY FIGURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Militant abolitionists believed slavery was pure evil — a crime against God and humanity. Every day that slavery existed meant more people <u>stolen</u>, beaten, and sold. Support uprisings, self-defense, and active resistance to those enforcing slavery. 	 <p>Harriet Tubman & John Brown</p>


GOALS

Goal	Description	Type
Immediate end to slavery	Freedom for all enslaved people without delay or	Hard goal
No Compensation	Oppose compensation to owners.	Soft goal
No Expansion of slavery in the territories	Slavery should not <u>permitted</u> in the territories. <u>It</u> fact, it should be outlawed in every state.	Hard goal
Equal rights for African-Americans	Demand legal and political equality for those already free, not just emancipation.	Hard goal
Federal protection for runaway slaves	End the Fugitive Slave Act and punish those who capture or return escapees.	Hard goal


IN THE COUNCIL

- You represent the movement's most radical voice.
- You will argue that slavery must be destroyed **NOW**, not gradually.
- You believe compromise is betrayal, and moral appeals have already failed.
- You may clash with political and moral abolitionists, but your passion will remind the council that freedom delayed is freedom denied.

Name _____

Date _____

Instructions: Read the article [Failed Compromises](#) and answer the following questions.

1. Vocabulary Vault

Draw a line matching each term with its meaning.

Popular		Person who fought to end slavery
Sovereignty		
Sectionalism		Law forcing citizens to return escaped enslaved people
Abolitionist		Southern radicals who demanded secession
Secession		To withdraw formally from a nation or alliance
Fire-Eaters		Loyalty to one's region rather than the whole nation
Fugitive Slave Act		Rule that allowed territories to vote on slavery themselves

2. Compare the Compromises

Directions: Fill out the chart comparing how each compromise *tried* (and failed) to keep the peace.

Main Issue		
Main Deal		
Who Got the Better Deal?	<input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> South <input type="checkbox"/> Both lost	<input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> South <input type="checkbox"/> Both lost
Short-Term Effect		
Long-Term Effect		