

Standard: RI5-Analyze how in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

Civil Rights

[1] The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is generally perceived as having granted women more freedom in the workplace and a right to expect equal treatment. Despite glass ceilings and other impediments, the passage of this act was a major legal victory. It was the culmination of several struggles that began early in United States history.

[2] The Civil Rights Act of 1964 exemplifies how various categories of law interact. As [statutory law](#), the act forbade gender-based discrimination in the employment arena:

§ 703. (a) It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer—

(1) to fail or refuse to hire or to discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or

(2) to limit, segregate, or classify his employees in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

...

[3] Although women have worked outside the home since the beginnings of this country, they did not possess the legal right to challenge inequities in the workplace. When women gained legal equality in the workplace, federal statutory law created rights and remedies based on which women could file suit against an employer or potential employer for employment discrimination. Legal history shows that women have not always possessed this right by either federal or state law, resulting in there being few remedies available to them in court. Nevertheless many suits have been filed. Often these were dismissed “for lack of a cause of action” because of the grounds on which they were brought.

[4] Nineteenth-century women filed suits against discrimination based on the Fourteenth Amendment's privileges and immunities clause and failed to win favorable results. Today, women file suits based on the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause and on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, and win favorable decisions. As a result, a considerable body of precedent has been set in the courts, giving women the rights and remedies they need to enforce equal treatment in employment settings.

What does the **first** paragraph contribute to the passage?

- a. It gives a brief introduction explaining what the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is.
- b. It describes some of the struggles women faced before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.
- c. It states the terms of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 exactly as it appears in the law books.
- d. It explains how the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is used in courts today.

Reconstruction and Its Aftermath

{1] The Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 freed African Americans in rebel states, and after the Civil War, the Thirteenth Amendment emancipated all U.S. slaves wherever they were. As a result, the mass of Southern blacks now faced the difficulty Northern blacks had confronted--that of a free people surrounded by many hostile whites. One freedman, Houston Hartsfield Holloway, wrote, "For we colored people did not know how to be free and the white people did not know how to have a free colored person about them."

[2] Even after the Emancipation Proclamation, two more years of war, service by African American troops, and the defeat of the Confederacy, the nation was still unprepared to deal with the question of full citizenship for its newly freed black population. The Reconstruction implemented by Congress, which lasted from 1866 to 1877, was aimed at reorganizing the Southern states after the Civil War, providing the means for readmitting them into the Union, and defining the means by which whites and blacks could live together in a nonslave society. The South, however, saw Reconstruction as a humiliating, even vengeful imposition and did not welcome it.

[3] During the years after the war, black and white teachers from the North and South, missionary organizations, churches and schools worked tirelessly to give the emancipated population the opportunity to learn. Former slaves of every age took advantage of the opportunity to become literate. Grandfathers and their grandchildren sat together in classrooms seeking to obtain the tools of freedom.

[4] After the Civil War, with the protection of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1866, African Americans enjoyed a period when they were allowed to vote, actively participate in the political process, acquire the land of former owners, seek their own employment, and use public accommodations. Opponents of this progress, however, soon rallied against the former slaves' freedom and began to find means for eroding the gains for which many had shed their blood.

Read the sentence and answer the question that follows.

During the years after the war, black and white teachers from the North and South, missionary organizations, churches and schools worked tirelessly to give the emancipated population the opportunity to learn.

How does this sentence fit into the overall structure of the passage?

Select correct answer

- a. It helps explain how people helped integrate former slaves into American society.
- b. It shows that people in the North and South both had similar feelings about Reconstruction.
- c. It illustrates the important role played by the church in implementing Reconstruction.
- d. It shows the difficulties faced by many former slaves trying to make a living after Emancipation.