

# Prove It!

**Directions:** Look at the Inquiry Question and the documents provided and answer the question (write your thesis)

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Inquiry Question:</u></b>         |
| <b><u>My Answer (Thesis):</u></b><br>1. |

**Directions:** Make sure you have evidence that answers ALL parts of the Inquiry Question. Use at least 2 pieces of evidence from primary sources.

| Statements | Evidence or Proof (Quotes) | Primary/ Secondary |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Because... |                            | Primary Source ▾   |
| And...     |                            | Primary Source ▾   |
| And...     |                            | Primary Source ▾   |
| And...     |                            | Primary Source ▾   |
| And..      |                            | Primary Source ▾   |

Source: Orr, A.; Obenchain, K.M.; & Davis, S.H. (2011). The past as puzzle:How essential questions can piece together a meaningful investigation of history. *The Social Studies*, 102(5). Pp. 190-199.

Prove It! developed by Angela Orr in 2009. Cited in article

### EXAMPLE: FOR TEACHERS

Directions:

Look at the Historical Question and the documents provided and answer the question (write your thesis)

#### Inquiry Question:

*Why did social, economic, and political inequalities exist for slaves and freed Blacks in the colonies and newly formed states?*

- Pick two topics to discuss

#### My Answer (Thesis):

Racism towards African Americans was widespread in all of the colonies (and later states), and since Whites thought African Americans were inferior, they enslaved some, and they also restricted their rights to carry guns or receive a fair trial.

Directions:

Make sure you have evidence that answers ALL parts of of the Inquiry Question. Use at least 2 pieces of evidence from primary sources.

| Statements                                                                                                          | Evidence or Proof (Quotes)                                                                                                                                                                                   | Primary/<br>Secondary  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Because...</b><br><br>Whites thought blacks were inferior because of the color of their skin                     | "In addition, most white colonists convinced themselves that Africans dark skin was a sign of inferiority, and so had few reservations about subjecting them to a life of servitude." (The Americans, p. 75) | Textbook (Tertia... ▾) |
| <b>And...</b><br><br>Slave owners considered slaves property and not people, so they weren't even accused of murder | "In Virginia, the courts did not consider slave owners guilty of murder for killing their slaves during punishment." (The Americans, p. 77)                                                                  | Textbook (Tertia... ▾) |

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|                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| if they killed a slave                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                       |
| <b>And...</b><br><br>Even in the North, there was racism towards free blacks                                                                          | "Slavery did exist in the New England and was extensive in the Middle colonies, as were racial prejudices against blacks,- free or enslaved." (The Americans, p.81)                                                                                                                                | Textbook (Tertia... ▾                                 |
| <b>And...</b><br><br>Even if a black person was free, because of the color of their skin, they had to carry a certificate to show they were not equal | "1793. Chapter 22. Free Negroes or mulattoes shall be registered and numbered by the town clerk, who shall specifically age, name, color, status, and by whom, and in what court emancipated. A penalty is fixed for employing a Negro without a certificate; the Negro may be committed to jail." | Primary Source ▾<br>A Sampling of Virginia Slave Laws |
| <b>And..</b><br><br>Because African Americans were treated unfairly and might rebel, Whites took away their rights to guns                            | "1806. Chapter 94. A free Negro is not to carry any firelock of any kind without a license."                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Primary Source ▾<br>A Sampling of Virginia Slave Laws |

#### Notes on Prove It:

- This exercise can help students to outline an essay, prepare for a unit project, or organize their thoughts for a class discussion, and can also serve as an assessment tool.
- This is also a great exercise in corroborating sources with what it says in the textbook

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