

Test ID: 9176

Test Name: MDPT 2015 Field Test 8-B

### **Activity 1: Reading and Note-Taking**

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act opened Kansas to settlement. The United States moved closer to the dream of westward expansion. The Kansas-Nebraska Act also changed the way the United States decided the issue of slavery in its new lands. For the first time the people of the territory, not the federal government, would decide if a territory would be slave or free. This principle of popular sovereignty and the fight over whether slavery would be legal in Kansas started the chain of events that led the United States down the road to civil war.

The documents, the "Kansas-Nebraska Act" of 1854 and the "South Carolina Declaration of Secession" from 1860, show two different views on a state's right to regulate itself.

As you read and take notes, think about these questions:

- What issues surrounded the debate over slavery?
- How did the South Carolina state government interpret the Kansas-Nebraska Act?
- Why did the Southern states want to secede? Why did the US government want to prevent secession?

For Activity 2, you will write in response to an argumentative prompt.

## Activity 2: Writing

Read the prompt and then write your response.

Remember, a strong argumentative response:

- States a clear argument related to the resources and the prompt, and maintains it throughout the work
- Uses relevant and accurate details/evidence from two or more resources to support argument
- Consistently uses grade-appropriate strategies to clarify relationships between and among ideas, and to connect evidence to argument
- Consistently and accurately uses domain-specific words to develop and support argument
- Is readable, with most grade-level conventions used correctly

**Prompt Type:** Argumentative

**Prompt:** Using your understanding of how the issue of slavery affected the decisions made before and during the Civil War, outline a process that might have ended slavery without the need for war. What evidence and arguments support your plan?