Voices Against Slavery

Trace how abolitionists' actions shaped public debate.

8.C.10.3.A "Assess the impact of the work of notable abolitionists, such as Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and Sojourner Truth."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action taken by each abolitionist and circle an effect of that action. Number each action-and-effect pair so you can compare their impact.

How Abolitionists Changed the Debate

1. In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison began publishing *The Liberator*, a newspaper that demanded the immediate end of slavery. Many white Americans at the time called for gradual change or refused to discuss slavery at all. Garrison's blunt editorials and reports kept the issue in front of readers week after week. He also helped found the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, which organized lectures and petitions. These efforts gave antislavery supporters ways to spread their message, but his uncompromising words also drew fierce attacks from people who defended slavery.

2. Frederick Douglass escaped slavery in 1838 and later spoke publicly about what he had experienced. In his 1845 autobiography, he described violence and the deliberate denial of education to enslaved people. Readers encountered a firsthand account that challenged claims that slavery was harmless. In 1847, Douglass started his own antislavery newspaper, *The North Star*, so he could keep arguing for freedom in print. His speeches and writing showed the power and intelligence of a formerly enslaved person, undermining racist claims used to defend slavery.

3. Sojourner Truth, who had escaped slavery in New York, traveled to speak against slavery and for women's rights. At an 1851 women's rights meeting in Ohio, she argued that Black women deserved rights as well as freedom. Her public speaking challenged listeners who ignored Black women's experiences and helped connect the fight against slavery to the fight for women's equality. None of these speakers or writers ended slavery alone. Their work helped build pressure, while fierce resistance remained. Slavery in the United States ended through the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Garrison's newspaper and the American Anti-Slavery Society help the abolitionist movement?

2. Why did Douglass's account of his own life challenge arguments used to defend slavery?

3. How did Truth's speeches broaden the debate about rights?

4. How did Douglass's firsthand account affect the debate differently from Garrison's editorials? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing two abolitionists from the passage. Explain how their methods differed, identify an effect they shared, and explain why their work did not end slavery by itself.

ANSWER KEY

Voices Against Slavery

GRADE 8 · 8.C.10.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action taken by each abolitionist and circle an effect of that action. Number each action-and-effect pair so you can compare their impact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Garrison's newspaper and the American Anti-Slavery Society help the abolitionist movement?	**His newspaper kept slavery in public debate, while the society organized lectures and petitions that helped supporters spread their message.**
2	Why did Douglass's account of his own life challenge arguments used to defend slavery?	**His firsthand account described violence and denied education, challenging the claim that slavery was harmless. His writing also undermined racist claims about formerly enslaved people.**
3	How did Truth's speeches broaden the debate about rights?	**She brought Black women's experiences to listeners' attention and connected the fight against slavery with the fight for women's equality.**
4	How did Douglass's firsthand account affect the debate differently from Garrison's editorials? Use evidence from the passage.	**Douglass described violence and denied education from his own experience, directly challenging claims that slavery was harmless. Garrison's editorials repeatedly demanded an immediate end to slavery and kept that demand before readers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Garrison used a newspaper and an organization to spread arguments against slavery, while Truth spoke to audiences about slavery and women's rights. Both pressed audiences to face injustice rather than ignore it. Garrison kept abolition in public debate, and Truth brought Black women's experiences into that debate. Their work helped build pressure, but fierce resistance remained, and slavery ended through the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment.

Accept other evidence-based comparisons of two abolitionists. Responses should distinguish their methods, name a shared effect, and recognize that their work contributed to change but did not end slavery alone.