

# Rebuilding Arguments

Compare viewpoints and actions during Reconstruction.

**S.USII.e** “comparing and contrasting people, places, events, and historical and political perspectives;”

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline statements that show different political perspectives. Circle words or phrases that signal a contrast between two events or measures.

### Reconstruction Choices

- ① After the Civil War, Congress and President Andrew Johnson disagreed about Reconstruction, the process of rebuilding the South and restoring former Confederate states. Johnson wanted Southern states to return quickly after they accepted the end of slavery. He offered pardons to many former Confederates. Many Republican members of Congress believed the federal government should set stricter conditions before states returned. They worried that freedpeople would not have safe homes, fair laws, or a voice in government.
- ② In 1865 and 1866, several Southern state governments passed Black Codes. These laws limited the choices of formerly enslaved people. In Mississippi, for example, a person without proof of work could be arrested for vagrancy. Supporters in the South said the laws would control labor after slavery. Critics in Congress said the codes copied parts of slavery by restricting freedom. The disagreement showed that people could view the same laws from very different political perspectives at the time.
- ③ Congress responded with the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment. Both measures aimed to protect the rights of people born in the United States, including formerly enslaved people. The act was a law passed by Congress, while the amendment became part of the Constitution after states approved it. Johnson vetoed the Civil Rights Act, but Congress overrode his veto. Later, the Fourteenth Amendment gave Congress a stronger constitutional basis for protecting citizenship and equal treatment.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did Johnson's plan for former Confederate states differ from the plan of Republican members of Congress?

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**2** Compare the views of Black Code supporters in the South and critics in Congress. What did each group say about the laws?

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**3** What was one similarity and one difference between the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment?

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**4** How did the Black Codes and the Fourteenth Amendment differ in their effect on the rights of formerly enslaved people?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose the Black Codes or the return of Southern states. Write four sentences that compare two people with different political perspectives. State what each person would want, include one fact from the passage, and explain one disagreement.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline statements that show different political perspectives. Circle words or phrases that signal a contrast between two events or measures. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                 | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did Johnson's plan for former Confederate states differ from the plan of Republican members of Congress?             | <b>Johnson wanted Southern states to return quickly after accepting the end of slavery. Congressional Republicans wanted stricter conditions to protect freedpeople's safety, fair laws, and political voice.</b>                |
| 2 | Compare the views of Black Code supporters in the South and critics in Congress. What did each group say about the laws? | <b>Supporters said the laws would control labor after slavery. Critics said the codes copied parts of slavery by restricting freedom.</b>                                                                                        |
| 3 | What was one similarity and one difference between the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Fourteenth Amendment?            | <b>Both aimed to protect the rights of people born in the United States, including formerly enslaved people. The act was a law passed by Congress, while the amendment became part of the Constitution after state approval.</b> |
| 4 | How did the Black Codes and the Fourteenth Amendment differ in their effect on the rights of formerly enslaved people?   | <b>Black Codes limited choices and restricted freedom. The Fourteenth Amendment supported citizenship and equal treatment.</b>                                                                                                   |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

A Southern supporter of the Black Codes might argue that work rules would control labor after slavery. A critic in Congress might answer that arresting a person without proof of work restricts freedom. Both speakers are discussing labor after slavery. However, they disagree about whether the laws are fair.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately identify each perspective, action, or effect from the passage. For the open response, accept either topic if the student clearly compares two viewpoints, uses a passage fact, and explains a disagreement.