Reconstruction **Documents—POV**

Examine the documents below. Analyze the Point of View of the author/creator of each. Who we are, where we come from, our experiences, religion, gender,… all affect our perspective of the world—they affect our Point of View. These various elements cause us to: say and think certain things, draw/paint/sculpt in a certain way, act in certain ways.

Document 1

Let there be White Leagues formed in every town, village and hamlet of the South, and let us organize for the great struggle which seems inevitable.

We have submitted long enough to indignities, and it is time to meet brute-force with brute-force.

If the white democrats of the North are men, they will not stand idly by and see us borne down by northern radicals and half-barbarous negroes. But no matter what they may do, it is time for us to organize.

Editorial in *Atlanta News,* dated September 10, 1874

Who do you think would have written a document like this?

Why do you think these White Leagues were formed?

Point of View **Point of View:**

Who is the author? Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Position—title (president, politian, traveler, slave, leader…)** | **Status (upper class, middle class, lower class, slave)** | **Education Level** | **Region from** | **Location writing from** | **Religion** | **Gender** |
| **Author** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **How does it affect the author’s statement?** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tone (angry, persuasive, resigned,…)** | **Type of document (letter, treaty, speech, …)** | **Motive for writing (inform, complain, protest, share good news, …)** | **Intended Audience** |
|  |  |  |  |

Document 2

. . All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. . . .

14th Amendment, Section 1, 1868

How does the 14th Amendment define citizenship?

During Reconstruction, how was the 14th Amendment intended to help formerly enslaved persons?

Point of View **Point of View:**

Who is the author? Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  |  |  |  |

Document 3

It is my mournful duty to inform you that our friend John W. Stephens, State Senator from Caswell, is dead. He was foully murdered by the Ku-Klux in the Grand Jury room of the Court House on Saturday… He was stabbed five or six times, and then hanged on a hook in the Grand Jury room… Another brave, honest Republican citizen has met his fate at the hands of these fiends… I have very little doubt that I shall be one of the next victims. My steps have been dogged for months, and only a good opportunity has been wanting to secure to me the fate which Stephens has just met… I say to you plainly that any member of Congress who, especially if from the South, does not support, advocate, and urge immediate, active, and thorough measures to put an end to these outrages…is a coward, a traitor, or a fool.

Albion Tourgee, Letter on Ku Klux Klan Activities. New York Tribune, May 1870

(Tourgee was a white, Northern soldier who settled in North Carolina after the War. He served as a judge

during Reconstruction and wrote this letter to the North Carolina Republican Senator, Joseph Carter Abbott.)

What did Tourgee say about issues with political during Reconstruction?

Point of View **Point of View:**

Who is the author? Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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