

Plans for Reconstruction

Overall Instructions:

Working by yourself or with a small group of other students, create a proposal for a plan for Reconstruction after the Civil War. You will present your plan using google slides or any other presentation tool (video, podcast).

Your plan should seek to achieve the following goals:

- *Reunite the nation, resolve the conflicts that led to the Civil War, and heal the wounds the war caused.*
- *Bring justice to the nation and its citizens.*

[**Outline Template - Not mandatory but can be used for brainstorming**](#)

What your plan should address

Your plan should address each of the following **dilemmas** that the United States faced as the Civil War ended:

1. What will happen to the land and other property confiscated by the Union army or abandoned during the war? Who has the right to use it? Who has the right to own it?
2. What will happen to freed people and other African Americans? Will they be citizens? Will they be permitted to vote and hold office? What other rights will they be provided?
3. What is the best way to ensure that white Southerners will be loyal to the United States and accept the end of slavery?
4. What will happen to each of the groups of ex-Confederates listed below? Will they be citizens? Will they be permitted to vote? Will they be permitted to hold office in the government? Should they be “punished” in some manner for joining the rebellion? Should they have to pay a fine to regain American citizenship?
 - Confederate leaders (government officials/military officers)
 - Wealthy, slave-owning planters
 - Women who ran plantation households
 - Working-class and poor whites in the South

Evaluation:

After you have created a plan that addresses the dilemmas above, **evaluate** it by answering these questions:

- Who are the winners and losers in your plan?
- How will your plan help to reunite and heal the country?
- How will your plan bring about justice after the war?

From Reconstruction to Mass Incarceration

Unit by The Racial Justice Organizing Committee,
part of the 2021 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

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- Does it deny justice to any group of Americans?

Grading Quality of Critical Thinking (Dilemma Addressed to Build Plan):

Each **Dilemma** is addressed in the Plan scored on a 5-point scale (Total 20 points)

Exemplary (5 points)	Proficient (4 points)	Approaching Proficient (3 points)	Not Proficient (1 point)
All parts of question are answered and follow an overall theme of VALUES that Reunite, Resolve, Heal and Bring Justice for all	All parts of the question are answered but components of the goals are not addressed (prioritizing some goals over others)	Not all parts of the question are addressed and/or some of the goals are not met.	Not all parts of the question are addressed & goals are not clearly considered in the plan

Grading Quality of Critical Thinking (Self/Group Evaluation of Plan)

Each Question that the Plan Addresses is scored on a 3-point scale (12 points)

Proficient (3 points)	Approaching Proficient (2 points)	Not Proficient (1 point)
Responses reflect a clear understanding of their plan and the impact on people of various identities. (both shortfalls and successes)	Responses reflect some understanding of how their plan with impact people but does not consider diverse aspects of identity in America. (ignores some shortfalls and successes)	Responses do not show understanding of the political and personal impact of the plan. (ignores both shortfalls and successes)

Grading Quality of Presentation (Organization & Clarity):

Each Question that the Plan Addresses is scored with on a 5-point scale (5 points)

Exemplary (5 points)	Proficient (4 points)	Approaching Proficient (3 points)	Not Proficient (1 point)
All slides/information show clear edits so that there is clear and concise language that sharply answers the questions.	Most information shows clear edits and an attempt to create concise language. However, there are instances where points could be sharper and to the point.	Information does not show signs of edit but generally the points are clear so the reader might have to do more interpreting or work to get the presenter's main points.	Information is not organized and hard to follow. Might have grammar and spelling mistakes showing lack of attention to edits.

Grading Quality of Presentation (Aesthetics):

Each Question that the Plan Addresses is scored with on a 3-point scale (3 points)

Exemplary (3 points)	Proficient (2 points)	Not Proficient (1 points)
Successful use of interesting and compelling visual anchors and/or other aids	Some attempts to make the presentation of information interesting and compelling	No attempt to make the presentation of information interesting and compelling

for the viewer to take in the information	using visual anchors and other aids for the viewer	visual anchors and other aids for the viewer.
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Possible Outline to help Guide Your Work

Plan:

- I. Introduction - This should function as a preamble for your proposal
 - A. A preamble explains the purpose and underlying philosophy of a document
- II. Property: What will happen to the land and other property confiscated by the Union army or abandoned during the war? Who has the right to use it? Who has the right to own it?
- III. People: What will happen to freed people and other African Americans? Will they be citizens? Will they be permitted to vote and hold office? What other rights will they be provided?
- IV. Loyalty: What is the best way to ensure that white Southerners will be loyal to the United States and accept the end of slavery?
- V. Ex Confederates: What will happen to each of the groups of ex-Confederates listed below? Will they be citizens? Will they be permitted to vote? Will they be permitted to hold office in the government? Should they be “punished” in some manner for joining the rebellion? Should they have to pay a fine to regain American citizenship?
 - o Confederate leaders (government officials/military officers)
 - o Wealthy, slave-owning planters
 - o Women who ran plantation households
 - o Working-class and poor whites
- VI. Conclusion

Evaluation:

- I. Introduction
- II. Winners & Losers: Who are the winners and losers in your plan?
- III. Reunification & Healing: How will your plan help to reunite and heal the country?
- IV. Justice: How will your plan bring about justice after the war? Does it deny justice to any group of Americans?
- V. Conclusion