

THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE MUSEUM

FREEDOM CASE: ROSWELL FIELD, MONTGOMERY BLAIR, AND THE INTELLIGENCER

Focus: Analysis, Synthesis, Writing

Getting Started:

What sorts of things do you say to someone when you want them to do something for you? How is it similar and different from a situation where you want to convince someone to see things differently? Make a list of the strategies used in these situations. Describe an event in your life when it was important that others understand the information you wanted to communicate. Now read Roswell Field's letter to Montgomery Blair and then Blair's letter to the National Intelligencer newspaper.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Analysis:

Begin with Field's letter to Blair. What did Field want? What arguments did he use? Write them down. Next, analyze Blair's article in the National Intelligencer. What reasons did Blair give for writing the letter? Summarize the facts of the case, creating a chronology of decisions. Include answers to the following: Why did Blair decide to accept the case? What did Blair identify as the major issue in the case? Why did Blair have problems finding assistance from other lawyers? Share your information (NOTE: if you're working in small groups, select a spokesperson.)

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA3, CA6, SS1 SS6, SS7; 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 2.3, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2

Synthesis, Writing, and Performance:

Utilize the following activities to evaluate the document (class could be divided with the individuals in each participating in one of the activities):

- Write a letter to the National Intelligencer in support of Blair.
- Organize a debate over whether or not Blair should represent Dred Scott.
- Imagine that you will be presenting a speech in support of Scott. Identify the strongest points in favor of Dred Scott's freedom. Why are these points strong? Use the answers to these questions as the basis for your speech. Present to your class.

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA1, CA3, CA5, CA6, SS6, SS7; 1.5, 1.8, 1.10, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.7, 4.1, 4.3

Note: If you accompany this lesson with a trip to the Field Museum, please be sure your tour guide shows you the area where Roswell Field wrote his first letter to Blair.