

Creating Northern and Southern Newspapers

Writing Articles

Have students will write news articles for class Southern and Northern newspapers. Divide the class into small groups of three or four students. As the class studies the Reconstruction period, have groups write news articles about specific topics. Articles should be specifically assigned to be written for Southern and Northern newspapers. As additional news articles are assigned, make sure groups are writing articles for both the Southern newspaper and the Northern newspapers. This will ensure students are writing from both perspectives during and after the Reconstruction period.

Topics might include these:

- President Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan
- Radical Republicans
- President Andrew Johnson
- Carpetbaggers
- Scalawag
- Freedmen's Bureau
- Ku Klux Klan
- Jim Crow Laws
- Black Codes
- 13th Amendment
- 14th Amendment

Publishing the Newspaper:

Have a volunteer to type up the newspaper. The Writing To Read Labs have a newspaper font that can be easily used by a volunteer or students. Students should revise and edit the copies of the articles before final publishing. Students can brainstorm and choose names for both the Northern and the Southern newspapers.

Other ideas:

Political cartoons can be added to each newspaper. Students can research and write advertisements and editorials for each newspaper.