

History

“Do you agree with the historian Barbara Fields that it ‘would take a century for former slaves and people of color to achieve the freedom they longed for?’ Do you think the Civil War in some ways is still happening?”

Using the documentary by Ken Burns, the primary sources that we analyzed, and the discussions we have held in class about the Civil War and civil rights more generally, construct your argument using claim, evidence, and reasoning.

Claim: (what does this time in history and these sources indicate about the Civil War and the effects today?)

Evidence: (What excerpts or portions of sources, including the primary sources and the documentary, illustrate your claim? In other words, what parts of your sources helped you construct your claim?)

Reasoning: (what does the evidence show about the claim and why? Why is this significant? How does it connect to today?)

Student Response to CER History Prompt

It would take a century after the Civil War for former slaves and people of color to achieve the freedom they longed for. The Civil Rights Movement didn't happen for another century after the Civil War, but even today there are aspects of the Civil War that are causing inequality for people of color. The physical fighting in the Civil War ended in 1865, when the war was over. However, the mental war to fight inequality continued in the United States for a century, and is even seen today. There are two ways to observe the Civil War still happening today. People of color took many years to reach voting rights and even when they were gained many tried to stop voting access. It took until the last presidential election to elect a person of color to the White House. Also, after the Civil War, many former slaves did not have nearly the same rights as other citizens. Segregation was spread throughout the southern states for at least a century. The Civil War was fought over the issue of slavery, but also over the issue of equality and rights for all people. The Civil War is still happening for many reasons. It will be happening until discrimination and inequality no longer exist in the United States.