WHAT WERE HOWELL COBB'S POLITICAL AMBITIONS IN 1856? And How Do We Know?

A LESSON PLAN FOR SECONDARY HISTORY TEACHERS

By Aaron D. Paul

Howell Cobb (née Thomas R.R. Cobb's older, and more rankcrown brother: a Southern Democrat, he served in a variety of political roles. Governor of Georgia, five-term member of United States House of Representatives, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senator, Secretary of the Treasury under President James Buchanan, and he held the position in favor of President James Lincoln was elected in 1861, of which point he became one of the founding members of the Confederate States of America.

What were Howell Cobb's political ambitions before he entified president? What role did his ambitions play in the embrace of Unionism? Did he want to be President? Were his ambitions interrupted by Lincoln's election? If so, why and in what ways?

Howell Cobb

THE POLITICAL AMBITIONS OF HOWELL COBB: Learning Goals and Guiding Historical Questions

Overall Learning Goal:

- By using and analyzing primary source accounts, students will address the questions indicated below about Howell Cobb and his political ambitions.
- Students will also use evidence to present an argument about Cobb's ambitions and use the evidence to defend their arguments. Students will also use evidence to identify and explain the historical perspectives of their sources.

- a key historical figure and his shifting political fortunes around a monumental set of decisions in American life, and
- how to read historical accounts and draw sound, evidence-based interpretations from them.

Specific Questions Students will Address by Engaging in the Lesson:

- Is Howell Cobb using his political abilities prior to the election of 1856 to secure himself a political promotion?
- Does he eventually seek to become President?
- Does he succeed?
- What does the evidence from his personal reflections and letters and correspondences tell us?

Note to Teachers:
This lesson could be particularly useful for 9th grade history students in Georgia because the Georgia State Social Studies Standards include indicators relating to the topic of the secession debates in the state. This lesson plan could also be used at the High School level when teaching about the Civil War.

ACCOUNTS, DOCUMENTS, AND MATERIALS LIST (materials and documents are found at the end of the lesson)

1. Student Resource Packet: 7 Primary source documents written by Howell Cobb
   - One set for each group
   - Each student will be required to choose and read 4 documents total from the 7 provided
   - They must analyze each document chosen on the PWrite worksheet provided.
2. Student PWrite worksheet
   - One for each student

Note to Teachers:
This lesson could be particularly useful for 9th grade history students in Georgia because the Georgia State Social Studies Standards include indicators relating to the topic of the secession debates in the state. This lesson plan could also be used at the High School level when teaching about the Civil War.

Investigating the Past, Learning American History: A Research-Based Approach to Lesson Design

The approach and design of this lesson plan is rooted in several decades of research on how students learn history. It has been customary for history teachers to tell students the story of the past as a means of getting them to reproduce what they hear and memorize. Research consistently shows that such an approach seldom succeeds. Empty vessels don't seem to quickly forget what they hear.

In studying how students learn history more deeply, researchers have found that students are far more likely to understand the past and therefore reproduce their understandings later if they have ample opportunities to investigate the past themselves. In fact, in a recent study, As a result, history teachers who structure lessons around questions, accounts (firsthand and secondary), and investigations into those accounts as a means of answering the questions posed are far more likely to help students attain strong understandings of the past.

This lesson is designed to draw from the research by structuring its sequencing in an investigative way. It poses crucial questions for students to consider and then asks them to read, analyze, and interpret primary source accounts in order to develop their understandings and make claims about what the past means and what happened in the past. Such classroom practices have proven strong understandings of history. By "doing history" themselves, students come to understand it much more deeply and are prone then to remember what they learn.

Lesson Sequence

Timeframe for the Lesson: 90 minutes in blocked schedule, or two 50-minute standard periods.

Step 1: Introducing the Lesson (5 minutes)

- Put the following question on the whiteboard:
  - Howell Cobb using his political abilities prior to the election of 1856 to secure himself a political promotion?
- Based on prior ideas that students have learned about the Civil War and Cobb and 19th-century politics, invite students to formulate their own initial interpretation about Howell Cobb's political ambitions as the lesson begins.
- Ask students to write down their initial responses to the question.
- Ask a few students to share their responses. Put these on the board and also write down a few of the ideas that the conversation might form between those that thought Cobb was using his position to simply promote himself, or that he was acting in the interests of the South, or that he was simply doing his job. Keep the list of responses. The goal here could be to see what preliminary opinions about Cobb were present among students.
- These initial interpretations can be thought of as conjectures students could test against the evidence in the primary sources accounts they will read.

Step 2: Investigating Primary Sources (40-60 minutes)

- Review the process of using the PWrite worksheet to analyze and investigate the letters written by Cobb.
- Students are trying to identify Cobb's intentions and thoughts and if you are wanting to secure a more powerful position within the political world of Georgia.
- Students should be prepared to read and analyze four documents, share their ideas and interpretations with their peers. Students are to individually look at each document, choose it, and fill out their own PWrite worksheet.
- Students will be required to read and fill out the PWrite worksheet for four documents.
- Students are to discuss as their groups are reading and analyzing, and as they complete their individual PWrite worksheets, they are to make sure that groups and students are on track. Take note of how the students are progressing: is more or less time required to complete the activity?

Note to Teachers:
Students should not seal on from the students put their historical thinking on display. It could serve as a type of informal assessment of their capabilities.

Concluding the Lesson:

- Call students back together into a whole group
- In a discussion format, invite students to answer again the question introduced at the beginning of the lesson, but this time using the evidence that they gathered using the documents and the recordings on their PWrite chart.
- Students should be prepared to share out their ideas, to make claims, to support their responses, or if they stuck with their initial conjecture, have them explain why they did. Be sure to have them identify and explain with evidence from the documents.

Assessment (30 minutes)

Students will write an essay, 1 page in length, using all the documents they read and analyzed on the PWrite chart. Students can also add document citations to their essay from the remaining three documents available if they choose (e.g., so as to strengthen evidence support).

Student must analyze the sources and cite specific evidence from them that argues whether Cobb was trying to maneuver himself into a more advanced political position, or not. Students must choose a side about which to argue.

- he wanted to gain more political power
- (i.e. he did not and was simply being his nation.

Note to Teachers:
Students should be asked to write essays, arguments students are asked to write sets up a future Civil War lesson in which they will investigate why strong Unionists, such as Howell Cobb, switched to the secessionist side and what this meant for the Civil War and its aftermath.

Essay Scoring Rubric: (TOTAL: 8 pts)

	Does not meet: 1	Meets: 2	Exceeds: 3
Student writes clearly and legibly. Paper is 1 page in length minimum.	Not legible, less than 1 page written	Legible, student writes 1 page.	Very neat; 1 page or more written on the topic.
Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	More than 5 grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.	No more than 3 grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.	No more than 1 error in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
Student makes compelling arguments and uses evidence from a source used in the PWrite chart.	Little to no evidence is cited, student uses only one source document from the PWrite chart.	Some evidence is used to make arguments. 2 or more documents are used.	Ample evidence is used from the paper and the argument is well supported and developed. 2 or more documents are used and cited.

Lesson Resources

1. Student Resource Packet: 7 Primary source documents written by Howell Cobb

Howell Cobb to His Wife. E.

Charlottesville [Ga.], *Tue Oct, 1856.*

My Dear Wife, . . . I have written to Mr. Stephens, all those upper counties of my district and with one than can call upon me to return to Congress. I believe that if the election transpires I would get every vote in Habersham and a large vote in all the other counties than I ever got before. The Southern Rights men seem to be the warmest friends I have, while the Union men are as true as ever. This is gratifying I assure you; whether I will avail myself of it remains to be determined.

Howell Cobb to James Buchanan. Pa.

(Private.)

Athens, Ga., *6th Nov. 1856.*

My Dear Sir: When we parted in Philadelphia I promised to write you if anything should occur in the political world which should be of any interest. I don't know that I can write you the outline of the position I have determined to submit to you some thoughts suggested by the recent elections.

In my own case, the Democratic party has been literally dashed to pieces in Georgia. I have been in the Democratic party, the Whig party there is not left even a monumental remembrance. It is with the Democracy however that we have to deal, having "the edge to lay the edge". After looking at the defeats and the states which have come upon us until the heart is sickened at the sight, I have come to the conclusion that the Democratic party is anything but dead to retrieve our lost ground. I am not disposed to look too gloomily upon the future. I cannot but feel that 1860 will see an overwhelming reaction in the public mind. Whether it should be so or not depends in a great measure upon the course of policy of the Democratic party. At present with less than the presidential contest of 1856 will be between the National Democracy and the Black Republicans. The Whig party, organized as it certainly can be, is dead, probably beyond hope and a Southern one possibly by Tombs. This will certainly be the fight unless the whigs should become partly nationalized through the instrumentality of the "Order of Nothings", of which there is some chance. At all events we may expect to see the Whigs of the South, with the Know Nothings, on the other of the issue above suggested. In view of these things the question is beginning to be discussed pretty freely, who shall be our candidate? In deciding this matter the public mind will certainly tend to the present executive as being in office and thereby having a decided advantage. I think Pennsylvania will be with us, if we can speak freely and confidently. The nomination of Genl. Pierce is certain and inevitable defeat. I am not to discuss the reason for this state of things but of the fact there cannot be a reasonable doubt. The sense remark may with equal truth be applied to every member of the Cabinet, Mr. Buchanan alone is free from the taint of defeat. Without disputing patriotism of all the candidates spoken of, allow me to say to you frankly that in is in this section of the country very generally agreed that you are not only the strongest but perhaps the only man that can succeed in 1856. I could give you the reasons upon which this opinion is founded but a reference to two considerations will show you that there do not good reasons for the opinion. The South is now in a state of high excitement. Her rights in the Nebraska contest and are not therefore conciliated will in personality. Whilst we hold that the democratic party is fully committed to the principles of that measure and must stand or fall by it yet it is important that in the next presidential race we should be relieved from the necessity of defending it. The Democratic party North is most prominent in that matter. The other consideration to which I refer is this—there is a very general aversion to a speculative candidacy. There is a desire everywhere that our party should be a man whose position and character as a statesman shall be known and recognized. Such a man is Mr. Buchanan. I need not state the points. You understand my meaning and that is sufficient.

I have reason to believe that a similar feeling exists in other portions of the Union, making the prospects for your nomination and election far brighter than it ever has been at any past period. I have not written this letter to seek your confidence in consequence of you what I believe to be a very general feeling on this important question of a democratic candidate for the presidency.

Howell Cobb to His Wife. E.

Washington City, *Dec. 23rd, 1856.*

My Dear Wife, The third week of the session is gone and no Speaker yet. As usual the town is full of rumors that I know not to mature but I do not see that there is any better prospect for it now than there has been all the time.

It is with a sad heart that I then see the last hope of speedily terminating the contest. I fear it will be a long one. I do not see the way *friend Ingersoll.* Certainly not, as it would take half the time it would to go home and if I leave here at all I shall certainly travel southward. As you will see from the public mind I have made a speech. You will see a very correct report of it in the Union. I feel that it was well received. I feel that it was well that it was so that I never made a speech here before that produced such an effect. I give you a very high evidence of it in the fact that one thirty thousand copies have been subscribed for the speech for circulation. I cannot even to you repeat all the handsome things that were said to me about it. I mention it simply to show you that I have had that the greater object I had in returning to Congress has been effected. This speech has fully reinstated me with the national democracy. "Richard is himself again." Don't dish my subject but do pointe to one who has for some years failed to get it at the hands of the South. I feel that I have done my duty to the South and have a right now to claim her support. I do not know and care today given you's notary to resign my seat in the morning, return to the only place of true happiness in this world, the bosom of my own family. This cannot be, but I will try to avoid creating the necessity for returning here again . . .

Howell Cobb to James Buchanan. Pa.

(Private.)

Washington City, *P. July, 1858.*

My Dear Sir: I have just returned from Georgia. My trip to the South enabling my information from there. I do not fear the result of the election in Georgia. The democracy will have a large majority in any presidential election, and I judge of other Southern States from the feelings of the people there. I feel confident about the South. If Mr. Fillmore had any prospect of an election, it would be somewhat different. He would then control the Southern Whigs and Northern Whigs would be divided between and more manifest that he has no chance and that a vote given to him only strengthens Fremont, and this conviction will secure for you every Southern State. I calculate more upon the influence of Fremont vacuum than upon more dated information.

I feel that the Democrats will carry Pennsylvania October elections. If we do carry Pa. for our state ticket every thing is safe—I do not fear that election I fear that all is lost. Too much importance cannot be attached to the result of your state election.

In writing to you about the interview I had with Mr. George, I feel that I ought to have written to you before. I ought to have more the state of feeling in that quarter.

Don't bother yourself about answering my letters; I know that you have much of more formal letter writing. I beg that you will not permit my letters to add to the burden.

Howell Cobb to James Buchanan. Pa.

(Private.)

Washington City, *2 Aug., 1858.*

My Dear Sir: I confess to you that I feel the administration is not as active in your support as they might be and I attribute it to the cause mentioned in a former letter. I speak advisedly. I have no idea that any thing will be done to injure your election that you have any reason to fear. I know that the Administration feel and therefore know how much can be done in a quiet way to effect the election, of which the world sees and knows nothing. An impolitic or injudicious appointment will tell upon a town, county or state, and a thousand other ways not an administration do much good or much harm without being seen or felt. I know that the Administration feel your cordial support if it can be done without any sacrifice of feeling or principle. The President as well as Mr. Marcy would be pleased with a kind word from you; and a kind message to Mr. P. M. Gaul, through some mutual friend would effect what I regard as important. I know that the Administration feel that there are such relationship towards them would not perhaps authorize it, but I know what I say to you deserve consideration. I need not say that it is on your account not theirs that I feel a solicitude on this subject. I have no suggestion to make further than what I have said. I know that you understand the matter better than I do, and I simply for again mentioning it to you. I cannot write at all if I could not, and if I prescribe I would go to Wheatland but it is impossible.

Our accounts here from Illinois and Indiana are highly favorable; not so from Iowa though the influence of Southern Democrats the North and West are very strong. I repeat that you have nothing to fear from the South.

Howell Cobb to James Buchanan. Pa.

(Private.)

Washington City, *1 Aug., 1858.*

My Dear Sir: If no arrangement can be made in reference to the office of Marshal for Philadelphia, I hope the Administration will present the ticket in compact entirety of old time Democrats. The last elections there show that we made very heavy gains in the Whig districts—indeed the only districts we carried were the old Whig districts of the State. Under these circumstances it is of great importance that the ticket should be made up of the old stock of the Whigs. Its important in it that I think you ought to write some of your leading friends there, urging upon them the importance of this course. I know that it is a matter of delicacy for you to do so, but change and delicate filled an appointment. This can be well effected, will save Maryland otherwise it may be lost. You have seen the letters of Pratt and Pearce. Seventy delicate will be out in a similar letter, and I am informed from a reliable source that a letter from Pennsylvania will be written to the same effect on the same ground. This change in the electoral ticket will greatly strengthen all those influence.

My acquaintance with the leading men of Md. is too limited to admit of my having any influence with them. I do not think that Pennsylvania will be influenced by any thing I say. I know that you and you judge for yourself. I think it would be a special assistance from you to Md., if you feel disinclined to write on as delicate a subject.

I fear that I trouble you with my frequent suggestions; but you know my anxiety and know that I mean well.

[P. S] My relation to the Intelligencer is founded upon a confidential communication, and must not therefore be spoken of for the present.

Howell Cobb to James Buchanan. Pa.

(Private.)

Washington City, *14 Aug., 1858.*

Dear Sir: I am so impressed with the necessity and importance of a change in the electoral ticket of Maryland that I make another suggestion to you. I understand that there is a gentleman on the ticket who is a member of the Know Nothing Lodge and who refuses to do so. Could you not write to him to come out at once and get him to arrange for his own place to be supplied with an old line whig? I have written to other friends in Md. on the same subject. I have just returned from Maine. The prospect there is better than I expected. I think we will have a democratic majority in the next House. My own opinion is from all I could gather, that it will [be] a close contest but that we shall carry the State. If Hamlin is beaten for you by the combined votes of the Know and straight Whig candidates for Gov., we shall pretty certainly carry the State.

I have written to Mr. Pratt and Mr. Pearce as you would be. Everything looks brighter and improves daily. I go home directly. Filling some appointments on the route, and if possible shall then go to the West—Indiana and Illinois, and give what help I can to our friends there.

2. Student PWrite worksheet

Place name of document or title for each one you read in the column below.	Identify: What is this document? Often can it either?	Attribute: Who is the "author"? What is the purpose of the diary? Why did the author write?	Perspective: What is the Author's point of view? What is he/she trying to communicate? To whom?	Reliability: How might this account or document be unreliable? Is it credible? Is it a reliable evidence? Why or why not?
Document 1:				
Document 2:				
Document 3:				
Document 4:				

Primary Source Investigation Student Name: _____

Additional Sources:

- Phillips, Ulrich B. (1913). *The Correspondence of Robert Toombs, Alexander H. Stephens and Howell Cobb.* Washington: American Historical Association. 1913.
- VanDerbeek B. (2011). *The Challenge of Rethinking History Education: On Practices, Theories, and Policy.* New York, Routledge. (see pp. 67-80).

Written by Brown Partnership

Georgia Humanities

NEH

CLARKSVILLE [GA.], *1st Oct., 1854.*

MY DEAR WIFE, . . . I have met with leading Democrats from all these upper counties of my district and with one voice they call upon me to return to Congress. I believe that if the election was tomorrow I would get *every* vote in Rabun county and a larger vote in all the other counties than I ever got before. The Southern Rights men seem to be the warmest friends I have, whilst the Union men are as true as ever. This is gratifying I assure you; whether I will avail myself of it remains to be determined. . . .

(Private.)

ATHENS, GA., *5th Dec., 1854.*

MY DEAR SIR: When we parted in Philadelphia I promised to write you if anything should occur which might render a letter from me of any interest. I don't know that I can now redeem the condition of that promise but I have determined to submit to you some thoughts suggested by the recent elections.

As you have seen, the Democratic party has been literally slaughtered in the Northern, Middle and Western States, whilst of the Whig party there is not left even a monumental remembrance. It is with the Democracy however that we have to deal, leaving "the *whigs* to bury *the whigs*". After looking at the defeats and disasters which have come upon us until the heart is sickened at the sight it is natural that we should look to the future to see what, if anything, can be done to retrieve our lost ground. I am not disposed to look too gloomily upon the future. I cannot but feel that 1856 will see an overwhelming reaction in the public mind. Whether it should be so or not depends in a great measure upon the course of policy of the Democratic party. At present it would seem that the presidential contest of 1856 will be between the National Democratic party on the one hand, and on the other two Sectional parties, a northern one headed probably by Seward and a Southern one possibly by Toombs. This will certainly be the fight unless the whigs should become partly nationalized through the instrumentality of the "Know Nothings", of which there is some chance. At all events we may regard it as settled that the democracy will have to fight the one or the other of the issues above suggested. In view of these things the question is beginning to be discussed pretty freely, who shall be our candidate? In deciding this matter the public mind naturally turns first to the present executive as being in office and thereby having a claim upon the party. In this communication you will allow me to speak freely and candidly. The renomination of Genl. Pierce is certain and inevitable defeat. I care not to discuss the reason for this state of things but of *the fact* there cannot be a reasonable doubt. The same remark may with equal truth be applied to every member of his cabinet. The *present* is not the proper time for any of them. Without disposing seriatim of all the candidates spoken of, allow me to say to you frankly that it is in this section of the country very generally agreed that you are not only the strongest but perhaps the only man that can succeed in 1856. I could give you the reasons upon which this opinion is founded but a reference to two considerations will show you that there are good reasons for the opinon. First, you have been absent from the country during this bitter Nebraska contest and are not therefore complicated with it personally. Whilst we hold that the democratic party is fully committed to the principles of that measure and must stand or fall by it yet it is important that in the next presidential race we should be relieved from the bitter personal feeling which exists towards those who were most prominent in that matter. The other consideration to which I refer is this—there is a very general averseness to a speculative candidacy. There is a desire everywhere that our next President shall be a man whose position and character as a statesman shall be known and appreciated. I might become fulsome if I went farther on this point. You understand my meaning and that is sufficient.

I have reason to believe that a similar feeling exists in other portions of the Union, making the prospect for your nomination and election *far brighter* than it ever has been at any past period. I have not written this letter to seek your confidence but to communicate to you what I believe to be a very general feeling on this important question of a democratic candidate for the presidency.

WASHINGTON CITY, *Dec. 23rd, 1855.*

MY DEAR WIFE, The third week of the session is gone and no Speaker yet. As usual the town is full of rumors that we will elect to morrow but I do not see that there is any better prospect for it now than there has been all the time.

It is with a sad heart that I thus see the last hope of spending Christmas with you gone. You ask if I will go to New Haven to see my friend Ingersoll. Certainly not, as it would take half the time it would to go home and if I leave here at all I shall certainly travel southward. As you will see from the papers I have made a speech. You will see a very correct report of it in the Union. I may say to you what I could not say to any body else and that is that I never made a speech here before that produced such an effect. I give you a very high evidence of it in the fact that over thirty thousand copies have been subscribed for by the members for circulation. I cannot even to you repeat all the handsome things that have been said to me by my Democratic friends. The truth is that I now feel that the great object I had in returning to Congress has been effected. This speech has fully reinstated me with the national democracy. "Richard is himself again." Don't chide my vanity—but do justice to one who has for some years failed to get it at the hands of his friends. All is right now so far as the political world is concerned, and I am now ready to quit and go home and would today give a year's salary to resign my seat in the morning, return to the only place of true happiness in this world, the bosom of my own family. This cannot be, but I will try to avoid creating the necessity for returning here again. . . .

WASHINGTON CITY, *27 July, 1856.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have just returned from Georgia. My trip to the South confirms my information from there. I do not fear the result in any southern state. In Georgia the majority will be the largest ever given in any presidential election, and I judge of other Southern States from the feelings of the people there. I feel confident about the South. If Mr. Fillmore had any prospect of an election, it would be somewhat different. He would then contest the states you mention, and perhaps others; but every day makes it more and more manifest that he has no showing and that a vote given to him only strengthens Fremont, and this conviction will ensure for you every Southern State. I calculate more upon the influence of general causes than upon mere detail information.

In my judgment the election turns upon your October elections. If we can carry Pa. for our state ticket every thing is safe—if we lose that election I fear that all is lost. Too much importance cannot be attached to the result of your state elections.

In writing to you about the interview I had with Mr. George, I did not intend to suggest any line of policy. I only desired to let you know the state of feeling in that quarter.

Don't bother yourself about answering my letters; I know that you have much of mere formal letter writing. I beg that you will not permit my letters to add to the burthen.

(Strictly private.)

WASHINGTON CITY, *3 Aug., 1856.*

MY DEAR SIR: I confess to you that I fear the administration is not as active in your support as they might be and I attribute it to the cause mentioned in a former letter. I speak *advisedly.* I have no idea that any thing will be done to injure your election that you will ever see or know; but you have been in an administration and therefore know how much can be done in a quiet way to affect the election, of which the world sees and knows nothing. An impolitic or injudicious appointment will tell upon a town, county or state, and in a thousand other ways can an administration do much good or harm, without attracting public attention. It is then important to have their *cordial* support if it can be done without any sacrifice of feeling or principle. The President as well as Mr. Marcy would be flattered with a kind word from you; and a kind message to the P. M. Genl. through some mutual friend would effect what I regard as important. I have had no intercourse with either of them, for my relationship towards them would not perhaps authorize it; but I *know* what I say to you deserves consideration. I need not say that it is on *your* account not *theirs* that I feel a solicitude on this subject. I have no suggestion to make further than what I have said, and you must attribute the repetition to the motive I have avowed for again mentioning it to you. I cannot write *all* that I would say if I could see you, and if practicable I would go to Wheatland but it is impossible.

Our accounts here from Illinois and Indiana are highly favorable; not so from Iowa though the indications of a reaction throughout the North and West are very strong. I repeat that you have nothing to fear from the South.

(Private.)

WASHINGTON CITY, *4 Aug., 1856.*

MY DEAR SIR: If an arrangement can be made in reference to the electoral ticket of Maryland we can make that State *certain.* At present the ticket is composed entirely of old time Democrats. The last elections there show that we made very heavy gains in the Whig districts—indeed the only districts we carried were the old Whig districts of the State. Under these circumstances it is of great importance that there should be on our electoral ticket some old time whigs. So important is it that I think you ought to write some of your leading friends there, urging upon them the importance of this change in the ticket—some of the present ticket could be induced to resign and their places filled as suggested. This, as I am well informed, will save Maryland—otherwise it may be lost. You have seen the letters of Pratt and Pearce. Reverdy Johnson will be out in a similar letter, and I am informed from a reliable source that as soon as Congress adjourns the National Intelligencer will take similar grounds. This change in the electoral ticket will greatly strengthen all these influences.

My acquaintance with the leading men of Md. is too limited to admit of my having any influence with them. I do not think that I overestimate the importance of this matter. You have the facts and can judge for yourself. I think it would justify a special messenger from you to Md., if you feel disinclined to write on so delicate a subject.

I fear that I trouble you with my frequent suggestions; but you must appreciate the motives and pardon the intrusion.

[P. S.] My allusion to the Intelligencer is founded upon a confidential communication, and must not therefore be spoken of for the present.

(Private.)

WASHINGTON CITY, *14 Aug., 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I am so impressed with the necessity and importance of a change in the electoral ticket of Maryland that I make another suggestion to you. I understand that there is a gentleman on the ticket by the name of Bowen (Levi K.) who will do anything you want him to do. Could you not write to him to come and see you and get him to arrange for his own place to be supplied with an old time whig? I have written to other friends in Md. on the same subject. I have just returned from Maine. The prospect there is better than I expected to find it. Our friends there talk confidently of carrying the State. My own opinion is from all I could gather, that it will [be] a close contest but that we shall carry the State. If Hamlin is beaten for you by the combined votes of the Dem. and straight Whig candidates for Gov., we shall pretty certainly carry the State.

You see that the South is all right, as I wrote you it would be. Everything looks brighter and improves daily. I go home directly, filling some appointments on the route, and *if possible* shall then go to the West—Indiana and Illinois, and give what help I can to our friends there.

Place name of document or title for each one you read in this column below.	**Identify:** What is this document? When was it written?	**Attribute:** Who is the "author"? What do you know about the Author? Why did the author create this?	**Perspective:** What is the Authors' perspective? What is he/she trying to communicate? To whom? Why?	**Reliability:** How might this account or image and the perspective it contains be used to address the questions you are asking or being asked? Is it reliable evidence? Why or why not?
Document 1:				
Document 2:				
Document 3:				
Document 4:				

Student Name: _____