

## Democratic Party Platform June 18, 1860

1. Resolved, That we, the Democracy of the Union in Convention assembled, hereby declare our affirmance of the resolutions unanimously adopted and declared as a platform of principles by the Democratic Convention at Cincinnati, in the year 1856, believing that Democratic principles are unchangeable in their nature, when applied to the same subject matters; and we recommend, as the only further resolutions, the following:

2. Inasmuch as difference of opinion exists in the Democratic party as to the nature and extent of the powers of a Territorial Legislature, and as to the [powers and duties of Congress](#), under the [Constitution of the United States](#), over the institution of slavery within the Territories,

Resolved, That the Democratic party will abide by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States upon these questions of Constitutional Law.

3. Resolved, That it is the duty of the United States to afford ample and complete protection to all its citizens, whether at home or abroad, and whether native or foreign born.

4. Resolved, That one of the necessities of the age, in a military, commercial, and postal point of view, is speedy communications between the Atlantic and Pacific States; and the Democratic party pledge such Constitutional Government aid as will insure the construction of a Railroad to the Pacific coast, at the earliest practicable period.

5. Resolved, that the Democratic party are in favor of the acquisition of the Island of Cuba on such terms as shall be honorable to ourselves and just to Spain.

6. Resolved, That the enactments of the State Legislatures to defeat the faithful execution of the [Fugitive Slave Law](#), are hostile in character, subversive of the Constitution, and revolutionary in their effect.

7. Resolved, That it is in accordance with the interpretation of the Cincinnati platform, that during the existence of the Territorial Governments the measure of restriction, whatever it may be, imposed by the [Federal Constitution](#) on the power of the Territorial Legislature over the subject of the domestic relations, as the same has been, or shall hereafter be finally determined by the Supreme Court of the United States, should be respected by all good citizens, and enforced with promptness and fidelity by every branch of the general government.

June 18, 1860.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Analyzing a Document, Speech, Treaty, Letter, or other Historical Items**

1. Name of the item: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is the author? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the purpose of the item? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Date the item was ratified, sent, entered into, issued, or accepted \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe the item; was it a letter, a treaty, a speech? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Brief background of the item (purpose of the item)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. List what you think the author was trying to convey to the reader or listener.

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8. List some of the things the item tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written; or project as to how it is applicable to the United States. .

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9. What questions has the author/item left unanswered?

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10. How would you respond to the document, speech, or letter if you were the intended recipient or audience?

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