

SEQUENCING OF EVENTS IN THE SLAVE NARRATIVE OF HENRY "BOX" BROWN

STUDENT HANDOUT 4: WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Using what you have learned about Henry "Box" Brown and the sequence of events in his life and escape, write a letter under the following premise:

You have just attended an anti-slavery meeting. This meeting featured an ex-slave, Henry "Box" Brown, who told of his life as a slave and described how he was able to escape. Write a letter to a friend describing Brown's unusual and daring escape. Your letter should show your knowledge of the story by listing the sequence of events starting with his request for help from a friend and ending with his arrival and exit from his box in Philadelphia.

In your letter, you should include a summary of how Henry "Box" Brown successfully crafted his own freedom. You can describe his actual escape, but also explain some of the less obvious ways that he "crafted his freedom" along the way. For instance, how did he prepare for his escape? What relationships helped him and why were they useful to him? How much did Brown depend on luck?

Teachers may use and reproduce the material on the Crafting Freedom website for instructional purposes.