

**CREATING ORIGINAL HISTORICAL FICTION USING HENRY "BOX" BROWN'S NARRATIVE AND RUNAWAY SLAVE ADS**

**TEACHER TOOL 3: ACCESSING RUNAWAY SLAVE ADS ONLINE**

Below are five excellent websites containing runaway slave advertisements. Identify at least five ads that you think would be of interest to your students and print and photocopy them for distribution in class.

Website 1:

<http://www.oah.org/pubs/magazine/antebellumslavery/catron.html>

This is a lesson plan developed for teachers by the Organization of American Historians. It contains a selection of representative slave ads from several different state newspapers under the "Materials" section of the lesson plan. These are not transcriptions of advertisements, rather photocopies of actual ads.

Website 2:

[http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/browse/browse\\_main.php](http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/browse/browse_main.php)

Students often find advertisements from their home state or states with which they are familiar to be of particular interest. At this site, you can explore ads by state, locale in a state, and by decade. Ads for runaway slaves from the Caribbean and other countries are also provided here.

Website 3:

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai/enslavement/text8/virginiarunawayads.pdf>

This document includes a pre-selected group of 30+ runaway slave advertisements from 1745–1775. This is an excellent selection and these ads reveal ways that the runaway slave in an ad was "resisting" slavery prior to running away. This includes only eighteenth-century ads.

Website 4:

<http://teachingamericanhistorymd.net/000001/000000/000097/html/t97.html>

This is a lesson plan titled "Runaway Slave Advertisements in the New Republic" and provides several examples of runaway slave advertisements from Maryland and the Washington, DC area.

Website 5:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/runaways/>

This extensive collection of hundreds of runaway slave advertisements from the Library of Virginia can be browsed by date and searched by any word such as the occupation "carpenter." This includes only eighteenth-century ads.

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