

TEACHER GUIDE

1860 DOC. #2: Lincoln Douglas Debate Headline (1858)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

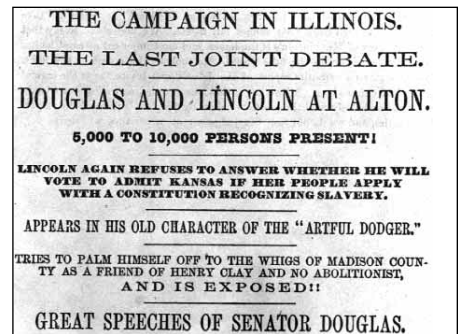
Newspapers in the mid 1800s continued to serve as party organs much as they had since the days of Jefferson and Adams. Reports were usually biased in the favor of the party's candidate (Daniel 356). These headlines are from a newspaper report on the seventh and final debate between Douglas and Lincoln held at Alton, Illinois on October 13, 1858. In the Alton debate over 6,000 people gathered in front of the City Hall, including reporters from Boston, St. Louis, New York and Chicago. The debate went on for 3 1/2 hours.

> **Project** the document.

QUESTION	Is this headline pro-Lincoln or pro-Douglas? Why do you think so?
SUGGESTED ANSWER	It is pro-Douglas.
EVIDENCE	negative comments about Lincoln while Douglas presented as making "great speeches"
QUESTION	What messages about Lincoln are communicated in these headlines? Give your evidence.
SUGGESTED ANSWER	Lincoln does not tell the truth.
EVIDENCE	text: "Lincoln again refuses to answer..." , "Appears in his old character of the 'Artful Dodger'";

SEE NOTE →

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PowerPoint Slide

NOTE

The Artful Dodger is a reference to the nickname of Jack Dawkins, a character from Charles Dickens' book, *Oliver Twist*, who was known for being a clever thief.

SUGGESTED ANSWER | Lincoln presents himself as willing to compromise on the slavery issue, but is actually anti-slavery.

EVIDENCE | text: "tries to palm himself off to the Whigs of Madison County as a friend of Henry Clay and no abolitionist, AND IS EXPOSED!!"

SEE NOTE →

FURTHER QUESTIONS

Headlines are a quick way for a voter to get information, similar to a TV commercial. What are the drawbacks of using headlines to convey information about candidates?

The Lincoln and Douglas debate pictured here lasted over 3 hours. What are the drawbacks of using lengthy debates to convey information to voters?

NOTE

Henry Clay was a well-known Senator who had drafted the Compromise of 1850 in an attempt to preserve the union by allowing slavery in the new territories taken from Mexico.

CONNECTIONS

(see thematic listing)

Attack