

## **CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS: LESSON 4: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In the first reading, we learn about how Black abolitionists fought to be able to serve in the Union army.
  - a. Should they have fought in the war even though many Northerners were racist and discriminated against Black people?
2. Black abolitionists disagreed over whether or not they should volunteer to fight for the Union.
  - a. In your opinion, which argument was more persuasive? Why or why not?
3. One of the main reasons Northern Free Black men wanted to fight in the war was to earn freedom for enslaved Black people in the South.
  - a. Considering they were not directly affected by slavery, should they have still risked their lives to end slavery? Why or Why not?
4. You read the perspective of a White commander of a Black regiment.
  - a. Given the racism of the time period, do you think it was possible for White commanding officers to treat Black soldiers as equal to White soldiers? Why or Why not?
  - b. Do you think Black soldiers should have fought to only be led by Black commanders? Why or Why not?

Writing Prompt

Take the perspective of a Black soldier in the U.S. Colored Infantry. Write a recruitment letter to Black northerners who do not want to fight in the war. Make sure to consider counter arguments in your letter.