

GRASPS

Goal	To create persuasive/opinion essays based on facts and details of the case in order to help Praiseworthy with his arguments in court.
Role	Law clerks for Praiseworthy.
Audience	Citizens of California in 1850
Situation	People in California do not understand the new government structure, they have only witnessed and lived under “vigilante” justice. Free African Americans are often kidnapped by “Bloodhounds” and sold off to slavery. There are challenges to face in regard to helping the Jackson family in court. The public is not aware of the Compromise of 1850 or the rules guiding the Fugitive Slave Act.
Problem	Friends of Praiseworthy and family, have been kidnapped. They have been told they cannot testify in court because they are African Americans. The family, (even though in reality are “free”), will be taken away and sold off as slaves if Praiseworthy and the children do not do something to help them.
Standards for Success	Praiseworthy’s family are able to research the issues related to the law and this case. The children write effective persuasive essays detailing the law and facts to be used in court to free the Jacksons and convict Cut Eye Higgins of kidnapping.