Part I: Explanation:

1. **Perspective (Definition):**

2. **What influences a person's perspective? (What shapes a person's perspective?)**

**Perspectives of Majority Groups in 1860**

**Northern and Western whites**
Many white people, both natives and immigrants, who lived in the North and West, did not think that black people were equal to whites. Those who voted for the Republican Party were opposed to the expansion of slavery into the western territories. They thought of slaves as economic competition. They wanted "free labor and free soil," to keep the lands of the west for small farms rather than big plantations with slave labor. They did not want to end slavery in the South. To this group, freedom meant economic freedom, to own their own farms, earn their own wages, and have their own businesses, without losing out to competition from cheaper slave labor.

**What are the main points of the Northern and Western whites' perspective?**
(Circle the key words in the paragraph, and write their perspective below).

**Abolitionists**
A small minority of people in the North and West were abolitionists. They were both white and black. They wanted to end slavery everywhere. They believed that slavery was morally wrong, and that black people were equal to white people. Many of them were very religious. Their perspective was the closest to our modern perspective, but in 1860, most people considered them radical. To them, freedom meant the end of slavery and bringing political and social equality to black people.

**What are the main points of the Abolitionists' perspective?**
(Circle the key words in the paragraph, and write their perspective below).

**Southern blacks (slaves)**
Most black people in the South were slaves. To them, freedom meant an end to slavery. They wanted to be economically independent, to work for money or to farm their own land. They wanted social equality.

**What are main points of the Southern blacks' perspective?**
(Circle the key words in the paragraph, and write their perspective below).
**Southern whites**

Even though only a small minority of Southern whites owned slaves, most of them wanted to preserve slavery and extend it to territories in the West. They were very suspicious of Northerners and hated abolitionists. Southern whites thought that Northerners were trying to take away their freedom, their rights and their way of life. They did not believe Lincoln and other Republicans who said that they would not abolish slavery in the South. By 1860, most white Southerners believed that the only way to hold on to their freedom was to secede from the Union and make their own nation. To them, freedom meant the right to hold on to slaves, as their property, and to live the way they wanted to live without interference from the federal government or Northerners.

**What are main points of the Southern whites' perspective?**
(Circle key words in the paragraph, and write their perspective below).

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**Analyzing Perspectives of Majority Groups in 1860**

Directions: Circle or highlight the key words or phrase that show each person's perspective on slavery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Perspective</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;I wish to speak to-day, not as a Massachusetts man, nor as a Northern man, but as an American and a member of the Senate of the United States. I speak to-day for the preservation of the Union... I speak to-day, out of a solicitous and anxious heart, for the restoration to the country of that quiet and that harmony which make the blessings of this Union so rich, and so dear to us all.&quot;</td>
<td>Senator Daniel Webster (1782-1852) From Massachusetts, a white rich man.</td>
<td>What group does this person represent based on their perspective?</td>
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<td>&quot;There is no rivalry, no competition to get employment among slaves, as among free laborers. Nor is there a war between master and slave. The master's interest prevents him reducing the slave's allowance or wages in infancy or sickness, for he might lose the slave by doing so. The slaves are all well fed, well clad, have plenty of fuel, and are happy. They have no dread of the future—a fear of want.... At the slave-holding South all is peace, quiet, plenty, and contentment. We have no mobs, no trade unions, no strikes for higher wages, no armed resistance to the law, but little jealousy of the rich by the poor....&quot;</td>
<td>George Fitzhugh (1806-1881). Fitzhugh was a wealthy, white Virginian man. He made this statement to the Senate on March 7, 1850. during the debates over the admission of California to the Union (as a free state), popular sovereignty and the Fugitive Slave Act.</td>
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<td>&quot;If at any one time of my life more than another, I was made to drink the bitterest dregs of slavery, that time was during the first six months of my stay with Mr. [Edward] Covey. We were worked in all weathers. It was never too hot or too cold; it could never rain, blow (windy), hail, or snow too hard for us to work in the field. Work, work, work was scarcely more the order of the day than of the night. The longest days were too short for him, and the shortest nights too long for him.&quot;</td>
<td>Frederick Douglass (1817 - 1895) He was an African American slave. &quot;Cowardice Departed, Bold Defiance took its place.&quot; (Excerpt from Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave. (Boston, 1845).)</td>
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<td>&quot;As a Southerner, I feel that it is my duty to stand up here tonight and bear testimony against slavery. I have seen it... I know it has horrors that can never be described. I was brought up under its wing. I witnessed for many years its demoralizing influences and its destructiveness to human happiness. I have never seen a happy slave.&quot;</td>
<td>Angelina Grimké (1805-1879) A rich white woman from South Carolina. She gave this speech in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1838.</td>
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