

## Civil War Pressure Answer Key

A strong response should include:

- The ruling denied citizenship and rights to African Americans.
- It supported the expansion of slavery into the territories.
- Northern abolitionists were outraged, while the South celebrated the decision.
- The ruling increased political tension and distrust between North and South.
- This contributed directly to the growing conflict that led to the Civil War.

*Teacher checks for accurate cause-and-effect explanation, sentence structure, and use of evidence.*

### Teacher's Guide

- Review the ruling's key points before writing to ensure clear understanding.
- Provide a model topic sentence: *The Dred Scott decision pushed the nation closer to the Civil War because...*
- Encourage peer review focusing on clarity and evidence.

### Differentiation

- Support: Offer sentence starters or allow students to use the planning organizer as full notes.
- Challenge: Ask students to also reference another event contributing to the Civil War (e.g., Kansas-Nebraska Act).

### Engagement

- Hold a brief debate prompt: "Was the ruling fair or unfair?" to spark ideas before writing.
- Display strong student examples (with permission) to highlight effective reasoning.

### Extensions

- Students add their paragraph to a class timeline of events leading to the Civil War.
- Quick research task: Identify one leader who reacted publicly to the decision and explain why.