

Five-Sentence Summary Answer Key

A complete and accurate summary should include:

- **Who:** Dred Scott (an enslaved man) and the U.S. Supreme Court
- **What:** Scott argued for freedom because he had lived in free areas
- **When:** The decision was made in **1857**
- **Where:** In the **U.S. Supreme Court**, Washington, D.C.
- **Why:** The Court ruled African Americans were not citizens, increasing national tensions and pushing the United States closer to the Civil War

Example acceptable response (wording will vary):

1. Dred Scott was an enslaved man who sued for his freedom.
2. He argued that living in free states and territories made him a free person.
3. His case reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 1857.
4. The Court ruled that African Americans were not citizens and could not sue.
5. The decision increased conflict over slavery and helped lead to the Civil War.

Teacher's Guide

- Remind students each sentence should answer a different guiding question.
- Encourage them to underline the five Ws in their notes before writing.
- Check for historical accuracy and correct sequence of events.

Differentiation

- Support: Provide a fill-in-the-blank version for emerging writers.
- Challenge: Ask students to include one vocabulary term (e.g., "citizenship," "ruling," "territory").

Engagement Strategies

- Timed challenge: Write the summary in 5-7 minutes, then revise.
- Peer swap: Partners check whether all five Ws are present.