

New Voices, Old Words Answer Key

(Answers will vary, but should show understanding of message and tone.)

- **Modern Rewriting Should Reflect Ideas Like:** Everyone should be treated fairly and equally. We won't support a country that mistreats us. The only way America can heal is by protecting the rights of all its citizens.
- **Speaker's Goal:** To ensure equal rights and fair treatment for African Americans during Reconstruction and to build peace through equality, not oppression.
- **Tone:** Likely "Determined," "Hopeful," or "Confident"-the speaker is strong in the demand for justice and believes change can happen.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the context of Reconstruction-era civil rights debates before beginning.
- Model rewriting a single sentence to demonstrate how to simplify wording without changing meaning.
- Encourage students to identify key phrases that show tone and purpose.

Differentiation

- **Support:** Provide a vocabulary aid for terms like "oppression," "integrity," and "equal rights."
- **Challenge:** Ask students to add a short concluding sentence to their rewrite that connects the speech to later civil rights movements.

Engagement Ideas

- **Partner activity:** Students read each other's rewrites and discuss differences in tone and word choices.
- Select a few student rewrites for a dramatic reading comparing past and present language.

Extension Ideas

- Students choose another Reconstruction leader (e.g., Thaddeus Stevens, Hiram Revels) and rewrite a primary quote.
- Write a short analysis: How did speeches and public messages help shape the outcomes of Reconstruction?