

### **Culminating Writing Task Directions**

In the Preface to her memoir *Behind the Scenes: Or, Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House*, Elizabeth Keckley discusses two topics: slavery and Mrs. Lincoln. What is Keckley's position on slavery? What is her position on Mrs. Lincoln? How does she develop and support her position on each topic throughout her memoir?

Write an essay explaining Keckley's positions on both slavery and Mrs. Lincoln. Be sure to use proper grammar, conventions, spelling, and grade-appropriate words and phrases. Cite several pieces of textual evidence, including direct quotations and parenthetical citations.

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To answer these questions:

- Review the excerpts read in class for examples and quotations related to Keckley's position on slavery and Mrs. Lincoln.
- Determine Keckley's position on each topic.
- Examine how Keckley develops and supports her position on each topic, considering both the Preface and the excerpts from her memoir.
- Consider the unique relationship Keckley had with Mrs. Lincoln and how it affected her position on the first lady.
- Consider Keckley's background as a slave and how it affected her position on slavery.
- Collect text evidence to support your claims.

Write an essay explaining Keckley's positions on both slavery and Mrs. Lincoln. Be sure to use proper grammar, conventions, spelling, and grade-appropriate words and phrases. Cite several pieces of textual evidence, including direct quotations and parenthetical citations.