

MAGNETIC STATEMENTS (ANSWER KEY)

Engage. Which magnetic statement attracts you the most? Why?

Extend. Choose two of the statements below. Craft a 2-3 sentence statement to explain how the work of Frederick Douglass and/or William Lloyd Garrison relates to journalism today.

1. Journalists help hold people accountable for their actions.

Abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass used media to hold the country and its slaveholders accountable for the crime of slavery. Garrison and Douglass used speeches and newspapers to expose the cruelty of slavery and how the institution of slavery violated the foundational ideals of the United States: freedom and equality.

2. Working in the media, journalists can help change the world for the better.

Abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass used the media (speeches and newspaper articles) to fight for a better world. By using speeches and printed media to inform the public about slavery and why it should be abolished, they helped to abolish slavery and made the world a more just place.

3. It is important for journalists to be curious about the world. It is also important for journalists to be good writers, because once they find a scoop, they need to communicate it as clearly as possible to their audience.

While he was enslaved, Frederick Douglass's curiosity and desire to understand the world drove him to find out how the system of slavery worked. He taught himself to read and write and used what he knew to escape the system, to spread the word about the inhumanity of slavery, and to advocate for abolition. A skilled communicator, he wrote and spoke on his beliefs to persuade the American people to fight for abolition. He caught the attention of many Americans with his speeches and written arguments, and many joined him in the fight to end slavery in the United States.

4. Good journalism is about treating people fairly, and about exposing the truth when people are treated unfairly.

Douglass and Garrison knew that the system of slavery was not fair because it reduced human beings to property. They produced media that exposed the hypocrisy of slavery, noting that enslaved people had no rights, power, or control over their own lives. They hoped the American people would confront these truths and fight to end slavery to create a fairer America.

5. When journalists share their opinions and views, they help the public to consider how they might think about what is happening in the world.

Douglass and Garrison wrote in *The North Star* and *The Liberator* and made speeches to share their views on the system of slavery. By doing so, they hoped to help people understand why slavery was wrong and needed to be abolished. A more informed public meant more political support for the Abolitionist Movement.