Handout 1H

Conveying a Message: Bolstering the Cause

You have just entered an anti-slavery bazaar. The materials you have been handed and that you will work with today are from various years throughout the antebellum period, but they all reflect the various methods abolitionists employed to gain support for their cause. Follow the steps below to aid you in your analysis of these methods.

Step 1: Entering the Anti-Slavery Bazaar	
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a.	What does your wafer say? How would you feel upon receiving this wafer?
b.	What types of goods are being sold at the bazaar? To whom do these goods seem most appealing? Why?

c. Which items being sold at the bazaar and listed in *The North Star* would appeal to you? Why?

<u>Step 2:</u> Analyzing Broadsides – find each broadside in the room and answer the corresponding questions.

- 1) Broadside i: How do the excerpts from this broadside appeal to the reader? What is the overall tone of these excerpts?
- 2) Broadside i: There are a total of three separate addresses on Broadside i. One concludes with the poem below. Read and annotate the poem. How does it connect to the abolitionist movement? Answer the question in the space below.

In conclusion – though, at the present session of Congress, the cause of liberty has been most shamefully betrayed, there is no real ground for dismay or discouragement. 'The triumphing of the wicked is short.' The revolution which has for twenty years been steadily going on, is not to be stayed by any factitious victory or specious compromise, but shall assuredly accomplish its work in due time. As for the Southern traffickers in human flesh, and their Northern accomplices –

'Ah! vainly they trust, in their arrogant pride, They can turn back the Truth in her conquerless tide, While onward she rushes, majestic and free, Like the Amazon's wave as it sweeps to the sea.

Let them bind, if they will, the swift clouds as they run – The storm-bolt, the whirlwind, the tempest of hail – Turn back the red light to its home in the sun – Stay the ruin that rides on the wing of the gale! But they never shall bind, with a tyrant's command, The Spirit of Freedom gone forth in our land; Or fetter the Truth, as she moves through the word, With her hand to the sword, and her banner unfurled!'

In behalf of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society,

Francis Jackson, *President*Edmund Quincy, *Secretary*

3)	Broadside ii: What is the goal of the anti-slavery fair?
4)	Broadside iii: What is the focus of the event advertised in this broadside? What is the significance of holding this event on this date?
5)	Broadsides were essentially printed materials on oversized sheets of paper that could easily be posted somewhere. Of the three you looked at today, which was the most effective in conveying its message? Why?

Step 3: Songs Analysis

You will be split into separate groups.	With your group,	analyze the s	ong you have	been
assigned by answering the questions b	elow.			

1) What is your song about?

2) What images does the author use throughout the song?

3) Why would songs be an effective way to communicate a message during the antebellum period?