

Handout 2

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_

**Incident Source Packet**

**Document A**

**Source:** Excerpted from Daniel Drayton's "Personal Memoir of Daniel Drayton: For four years and four months a prisoner (for charity's sake) in Washington jail" (1855). Retrieved from *Library of Congress*.

**Headnote:** Daniel Drayton was the commander of the schooner *The Pearl*. He was an oyster fisherman who did not own this boat. He paid to borrow it from another man, name unknown, to complete the mission. It is said that Drayton had completed a mission to free enslaved people before, but demanded more and more payment for that mission. He was paid \$100 dollars (a large sum for the time) to complete this mission.

"Passing along the street, I met Captain Sayres, and knowing that he was sailing a small bay-craft, called *The Pearl*, and learning from him that business was dull with him, I proposed the enterprise to him...Captain Sayres engaged in this enterprise merely as a matter of business. I, too, was to be paid for my time and trouble,—an offer which the low state of my pecuniary \_\_\_\_\_ affairs, and the necessity of supporting my family, did not allow me to decline. But this was not, by any means, my sole or principal motive. I undertook it out of sympathy for the enslaved, and from my desire to do something to further the cause of universal liberty. Such being the different ground upon which Sayres and myself stood, I did not think it necessary or expedient \_\_\_\_\_ to communicate to him the names of the persons with whom the expedition had originated."

**Questions to Consider:**

- 1) What part of *The Pearl* incident does this excerpt capture?
- 2) What does Drayton give as his motives for participating in *The Pearl* incident?
- 3) What language does he use to describe his motivations?
- 4) What is Drayton's perspective of *The Pearl* incident?
- 5) Is this a reliable source? Why or why not?



## Document B

**Source:** Excerpted from 1848 edition of *Port Tobacco Times*, a weekly newspaper for Charles County, Maryland, that supported the Democratic Party. Retrieved from *Library of Congress*.

"... Daniel Drayton, the supposed master and ringleader of the thieves was ordered to come up. After some time, and very reluctantly... The real captain of *The Pearl*, Edward Sayers, was then called up and put under guard, his answers being evasive and unsatisfactory



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## Document F

**Source:** Excerpted from Winifred Conkling's "Passenger on *The Pearl*: The True Story of Emily Edmonson's Flight from Slavery", (2015)

**Headnote:** Winifred Conkling calls herself a children's story teller, and obtained a master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

"In the days that followed the capture of *The Pearl*, the families of the runaways tried to figure out how the plot had been discovered. No one knows how Judson Diggs's betrayal was revealed, but members of the black community blamed him for the failed plan. Diggs was one of them - he knew the sting of slavery and the satisfaction of finding freedom - so many considered his act of denying liberty to others to be unforgivable.

Taking the law into their own hands, a group of young black men sought revenge by pulling Diggs from his carriage, beating him up, and throwing him into a stream that ran along the north side of the old John Wesley Church in Washington, D.C. Diggs survived and fully recovered from his physical injuries. He was considered an outcast - 'despised and avoided' - until he died in his late sixties."

### Questions to Consider:

- 1) What part of *The Pearl* incident does this excerpt capture?
- 2) What happened to Judson Diggs? Why?
- 3) Why might it be that we have no account from Judson Diggs himself?
- 4) Is this source reliable? Why or Why not?

## ourcing Organizer

**Directions:** As you carefully and closely read the documents, please record the key information paying special attention to the guiding questions at the bottom of each document.

Document	Who wrote it?	When and where was it written?	Why might it have been written?	Notes in Response to the Questions at the Bottom of the Document (of the )
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## Ranking Credibility Worksheet

**Directions:**

**Document C: "The Fugitives of the Pearl" by John Paynter, 1916**

Rank:

Other Documents Consulted:

**Explanation:**

