

Kenitria Reed

American History

Period 6

04 January 2006

Dear Mr. Scott,

As an African-American, I would like to thank you. Your courageous acts helped pave the way for our people and eventually helped us gain our citizenship.

Although it took you several years to get your case processed through several courts, only to find that you were not a citizen and therefore could not sue, the action caused the chasm between the North and South to grow. Your insistent demand for freedom from the wretched thing called slavery had not been in vain.

After living in Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory, you fought for what the law supposedly guaranteed you. You fought for your freedom. You boldly challenged the laws African-Americans never dreamed of challenging. You opened the doors for many former slaves and also opened the eyes of many politicians. You made others realize slavery was morally wrong and that African-Americans were people, not property. In spite of the fact that you were denied your rights, you were a major cause of the American Civil War.

In 1850 you thought you were finally free, had finally won. However, the United States Supreme Court quickly snatched your freedom from your very hands, declaring that you did not have the right to sue. When you thought that your worries and troubles would soon be over, you found they had only just begun. Yet you continued to fight. You continued to struggle with the system.