

American Literature
Freedom's Main Line
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 3: *Freedom's Main Line*

1. According to his epitaph, Thaddeus Stevens requested to be buried in a racially integrated cemetery in order to "illustrate in my death the principles which I advocated through a long life — equality of Man before his Creator." Write your own "epitaph," expressing an idea or trait for which you would like to be remembered. (2 students may choose this assignment)
2. Using John Hope's speech in "Be Dissatisfied" as a model, write an essay in which you urge your audience to accept a call to action on an issue of importance and meaning to you.
3. Imagine that you are Carey Duncan, an African American teenager who took part in the Louisville ride-ins. Write a letter to the editor of *The Louisville Messenger* describing your reasons for participating, your experiences during the protest, and your hopes and dreams for the community. (2 students may choose this assignment)