

Teacher’s Examining Primary Sources

1. Examine each primary source and complete the table below based on your findings.

	1863 Letter	A Sketch of Autobiography
Author’s name	Dr. A. T. Augusta	Dr. Joseph D. Harris
Summary	In the letter to President Lincoln, Dr. Augusta outlines his credentials as a physician and asks for a military appointment to help sick and wounded African American soldiers fighting for the Union.	Dr. Harris outlines where he was born, how he obtained training and education to become a doctor, and his service as a military surgeon in the Union army. He also provides references of several names and a letter.
Similarities between the authors	<p>Drs. Augusta and Harris both :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • were born in the United States • studied and became physicians and outline their credentials • offered references to verify their credentials as a part of applying to work to attend to African American soldiers wounded fighting in the Union Army 	
Differences between the authors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter written in 1863 • racial prejudice • had to leave the U.S. to study medicine in Canada • wanted to serve in the Union army • desired to “be of use to my race.’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retrospective memoir written around 1864-1865 • born in America but lived in Haiti where he became interested in medicine • returned to the U.S. to study medicine • had a physician teacher in Ohio • studied and received his degree in Iowa. • served as a contract military surgeon
Describe one key finding and explain its significance.	Guide students to think about the need of caring for the African American soldiers fighting in the newly formed regiments. Among many syntheses students might construct, focus on the obstacles that the African American doctors had to overcome to enter into the profession, through which they pushed boundaries of prescribed roles and expectations of African Americans during the Civil War.	