EXEMPLARY WORKSHEET

EXCERPT OF A SENATE BILL PROPOSING AN END TO THE SLAVE TRADE, JANUARY 13, 1807.

(Sen 9A-B1) 9th Congress, Records of the United States Senate, Record Group 46, National Archives.

[In Senate of the United States.]

JANUARY 13, 1807.

A BILL

(As amended by the committee.)

To prohibit the importation of slaves into any part or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eight.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eight, it shall not be lawful to import or bring into the United States, or the territories thereof, any negro, mulatto, or free person of color, with intent to keep, sell, or dispose of such negro, mulatto, or person of color, as a slave, or to be held to service or labor.

Sec. 2. “And be it further enacted, That” no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigners, or any other person, shall
QUESTIONS
Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.
1. Why did Congress wait until the date cited in this bill to enact such legislation?
2. What step in the legislative process does this bill illustrate?
3. What further steps would be necessary before the bill could become law?
4. How does the addition between lines four and five expand or limit the original terms of the bill?
5. Would this bill outlaw the entire slave trade in the United States or just a part of it?
6. What elements of the slave trade would continue unaffected by this legislation?
7. What support and what opposition would you expect this bill to receive?
8. Under what circumstances would you have advised President Jefferson to sign this bill?