

In-Archives Handout

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Part of an in-archives exercise at <http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/civil-war-draft/>

Station 1: Calling American Men to Arms

“Colored Citizens to Arms!” circa 1863, M1975.387.1; Brooklyn Historical Society.

“Greasy Mechanics Attention!” circa 1861-1865, M1975.815; Brooklyn Historical Society.

Your group has 25 minutes to examine the two documents closely and to discuss the following:

- What do you think a broadside is? Where do you think someone would have seen it?
- Why do you think of the term “Greasy Mechanics?” Why do you think the “Engineers and Artisans” are referred to this way?
- What is promised to these white northern laborers? How is the south portrayed in this broadside? What reaction is expected from the presumed audience?
- What concepts are invoked to encourage black volunteers?
- What can you infer about the differences between the military experiences of black and white Americans?

Spend 5 minutes summarizing your findings. Be prepared to report back to the whole class.