

Answers to Questions

LETTER ACTIVITY THREE

1. Mr. Bronson appears to have included this portion of the letter to Congressman Barden for what reason?

Mr. Bronson was most likely warning that if the stringing activity was done in a factory the work would go to the black workers.

2. Why do you think that Mr. Bronson chose to make this argument?

A connection should be made that during this time the South was in the midst of the Jim Crow era. Mr. Bronson could have made this argument to persuade the congressman that if he was looking out for his white constituents then he should support an amendment. This could be viewed as an example of Jim Crow prejudice.

3. Would you trust this data? If not, why might you view it with suspicion? How could confirm its validity?

Most students will say no. Considering the time period, the statistics could made up to bring race into the argument. The survey was done by Mr. Bronson's company. Students would want to see who had done the survey and the numbers of respondents questioned.

4. Considering the time period, do you think this would have been an effective argument for Mr. Bronson to make? Why or why not?

Most students should understand that considering the period this would most likely have been a very effective argument. They should support their view with reasoned details.

5. Why do people who are trying to persuade others to their opinion use emotional techniques?

People many times make decisions based on their emotions rather than factual information. Knowing this, it is understandable why people trying to persuade others to their opinion will use emotional techniques.

6. In what situations today do we see the same techniques?

Answers will vary. Students should recognize that this is often used in political campaigning for example.