

Dred Scott (1799-1858)	A slave who sued unsuccessfully for his freedom. The 1857 Supreme Court decision ruled that people of African-American descent imported as slaves or their descendants (whether or not slaves) could never be citizens and were considered property.
Kansas-Nebraska Act	In 1854 created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and allowed settlers to determine if they would allow slavery within their boundaries. This act was designed by Stephen Douglas, who believed that popular sovereignty (public voting) should decide the issue of slavery. The Republican Party was created in opposition to this act.
Whig Party (1833-1856)	Formed in opposition to Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party. It supported the supremacy of Congress over the Executive Branch. The party ultimately split over slavery and lost its base to the Republican Party. <i>Important Whigs:</i> Daniel Webster, Henry Clay.
Know-Nothings	A nativist political movement of the 1850's. It strove to curb immigration and naturalization and believed that the country was being overwhelmed by Irish-Catholic immigrants. The "Know-Nothings" met with little success.
Henry Clay (1771-1852)	U.S. statesman from Kentucky. Speaker of the House and U.S. Senator. Known as the "Great Compromiser." A hero to Abraham Lincoln.
Major Stuart - John Todd Stuart (1807-1855)	Law partner of Abraham Lincoln (1837-1841) and first cousin to Mary Todd Lincoln.
Richard Merrick	A Douglas campaign worker who followed the debates throughout Illinois giving his own post-debate follow-up speeches on Douglas's behalf.