

Bleeding Kansas: A Skit, based off of a comic

Characters:

Narrator (Hannah)

Stephen Douglas()

Slaves 1 & 2 (1-Trent, 2-Gabe)

Kansas citizens pro-slavery 1 & 2 (1-Jake, 2-Kylie)

Kansas citizens anti-slavery 1 & 2 (1- Zoe, 2- Megan)

Northern congressmen 1 & 2 (1-Bethany, 2- Abigail)

Southern congressmen 1 & 2 (1- Brooklyn, 2- Jessa)

Random neutral person (Kaden)

Narrator: It is 1854, and Kansas and Nebraska got admitted into the Union.

Anti-slavery citizen 1: Awesome! There's a ton of land out in Kansas.

Pro-slavery citizen 1: Let's go claim that land before anyone else!

Stephen Douglas: Hmm..... If we built a transcontinental railroad, it would go right through Kansas and Nebraska. I need to own land in Kansas. Then I would be RICH!

Narrator: Time passes, and the citizens of Kansas build their farms with their new land.

Pro-slavery citizen 1: It's too much work to build railroads and tend farms.

Pro-slavery citizen 2: I've got an idea! What about we bring our slaves out here to Kansas to do our work?

Pro-slavery citizen 1: Good idea! This (point at Trent) can be your slave, and this (point at Gabe) can be my slave.

Narrator: Some citizens walk past their houses and see the slaves.

Anti-slavery citizen 1: What are they doing here?! You can't have slaves!

Anti-slavery citizen 2: Slavery isn't allowed in Kansas!

Pro-slavery citizen 2: Yes it is!

Anti-slavery citizen 1: You're going to have to go through me to get them!

Pro-slavery citizen 1: How else are we going to be able to farm?!? We need slaves!!!

Random neutral person: Stop arguing! (sarcastically) Let's let congress decide. They always know what to do.

All anti- and pro-slavery citizens: Fine! (or something like that)

Narrator: The matter is taken to congress. At congress...

Pro-slavery congresswoman 1: Kansas should be a slave state! California got admitted into the Union as a free state, so it's Kansas' turn.

Anti-slavery congresswoman 1: Kansas should be a free state because slavery is wrong! There shouldn't even be slave states!

Pro-slavery congresswoman 2: If you can't tell that Kansas citizens want to have slaves, then you shouldn't be in congress!

Stephen Douglas: It doesn't matter if there are slaves or not in Kansas. We should be taking this opportunity to plan a railroad! It would help the whole country.

Narrator: Meanwhile, in Kansas, we return to a big argument. The neutral person, a slave, and a pro-slavery citizen are dead on the ground.

Pro-slavery citizen 1: My slave wouldn't be dead if it weren't for you!

Anti-slavery citizen 2: Your slave wouldn't be dead if you had just left him in Africa!

Narrator: The citizens continue to bicker. Later that night, the anti-slavery citizens are resting peacefully in their beds.

Pro-slavery citizen 1: They will pay for killing my slave. I needed him to work. I also need to avenge my friend. That girl will die tonight.

Narrator: Back at congress, people reluctantly start to make decisions.

Anti-slavery congresswoman 2: There are more people in the North, so making Kansas a free state would please the most amount of people.

Pro-slavery congresswoman 1: That isn't fair to the South.

Pro-slavery congresswoman 2: We aren't getting anywhere with this. Let's just say that the people of Kansas can decide.

Anti-slavery congresswoman 1: Let's do that. Then it wouldn't be our fault if the outcome is not favored.

Narrator: In Kansas, the citizens gather together, in groups of pro-slavery or anti-slavery. They say that they need to bring in more citizens to outbalance the vote of whether or not Kansas will be a slave or a free state.

Anti-slavery citizen 1: I'm going to move my family out here so that they can vote for Kansas to be a free state.

Pro-slavery citizen 1: I'm going to move my family out here so that they can vote for Kansas to be a slave state.

Narrator: Many people move to Kansas to try and outweigh the vote of the opposing side. To the South's dismay, Kansas becomes a free state. This angers the South because the balance between slave states and free states is now disrupted.