Letter from person involved in Austin Steward's life to Austin Steward

Directions:

1) From the list generated choose a person involved in Austin Steward's life.
   ____________________________________________________________

2) Compose a letter from that person’s point of view to Austin Steward explaining their position. Such as Mr. Moore explaining that Steward is technically free according to New York state law, or Mr. Tower explaining that he can no longer afford to keep him since he is hurt and unable to work.

3) Self-edit your letter then trade with another student to have them read and assist with revising and editing.

4) Conference with Mrs. Brown to for final revisions and editing.

5) Compose final draft of letter.

6) Extra credit – Create an illustration of your person based on what you know about them from your reading of Austin Steward’s narrative.
Discussion Handout
Slave Narrative: *Twenty-two Years a Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman*

Excerpt from Austin Steward’s book.

After you and your group have read the selected passages from Steward’s narrative, all students should participate in a discussion –using the questions below- to help you further understanding the experiences of an African American slave prior in the pre-Civil War era.

Students should write their own thoughts *as well as* the rest of the group.

1) Based on this narrative, what was life like for slaves prior to the beginning of the Civil War? You may list both the good & bad if applicable.

2) What are some specific examples of hardships suffered by slaves during this time?

3) Do you believe that all whites held the same view about African American slaves during this time period? Use evidence from your reading to support your response.
4) Education was denied to most slaves, does it surprise you that Austin Steward was able to write such a descriptive account of his experiences? Why or why not?

5) Why is it important to study history using primary sources?