***Violence and Backlash of Reconstruction***

*Answer the following questions using the video and article links found on* [*www.ennishistory.com*](http://www.ennishistory.com)*. Answer ALL parts of the questions and make sure to explain your answers to receive FULL credit.*

1. Reflect on violence and terror in our society. How should a democratic society, like the U.S., respond to violence and terror?
2. Watch Violence and Backlash video ([www.ennishistory.com](http://www.ennishistory.com) under the U.S. History 9, Reconstruction page)
   1. According to the scholars in the video, to what were the perpetrators (the ones starting it) of violence during Reconstruction reacting?
   2. What was the Ku Klux Klan?
   3. What were the Klan’s goals?
   4. What can you infer from the video about the goals of *political violence*?
   5. What examples of political violence does the video provide?
3. Read Klansmen Broke My Door Open aloud as a class
   1. Write down a phrase or sentence that was surprising, interesting, or troubling to you
   2. Write down a single word that describes your experience of reading this
4. What made Ku Klux Klan violence possible and acceptable to so many Americans as a reaction to Reconstruction and interracial democracy?
5. What evidence does the film provide to help you answer this question?
6. Read the following quotation from federal judge William H. Hastie:

*Democracy is becoming rather than being. It can easily be lost, but never is fully won. Its essence is eternal struggle.*

1. What do you think Hastie means when he says that democracy’s essence is eternal struggle?
2. Watch Legacy of Reconstruction Video (on [www.ennishistory.com](http://www.ennishistory.com))
   1. According to the historians in this video, what is the relationship between the history of the Reconstruction era and the contemporary United States?
   2. What were some of the key successes of Reconstruction? What were some of the important limitations to the progress made during this era?
   3. According to historian Eric Foner, what did W.E.B. Du Bois mean when he described Reconstruction as a “splendid failure”?
   4. What was the relationship between the Reconstruction era and the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th century?
   5. Why do historians refer to Reconstruction as an “unfinished revolution”?
   6. According to the historians in this video, how might this history influence the choices we make and the actions we take today?
3. Read the speech by Bryan Stevenson: *We Need to Talk About Injustice*
   1. How would Stevenson respond to the following question posed by George Lipsitz in the video:

*How are you going to write the new chapter [of this history], not in your notebooks, but in society as men and women with responsibility and opportunity?*

* 1. What responsibilities do you have for helping create a better society?
  2. What opportunities?