

Equal Education
Worksheet 2
Four Reasons to Fight

The article on page 10 of the magazine gives four reasons why some Kansans in the 1860s and 1870s wanted to fight against segregated schools. First, write those reasons in the boxes below. Then read the quotations underneath these boxes from Kansans in the past, about their reasons for fighting segregation. Draw a line from each quotation to the box that has the reason that Kansan didn't want schools separated by skin color.

Reason 1	Reason 2	Reason 3	Reason 4
Separate schools were unfair.	Separate schools were a waste of money.	Segregation was immoral.	Separate schools kept prejudice alive.

Reason 2: The Kansas state Superintendent of Schools declared in 1869, "Separate schools in nearly every case are bad economy, as well as a disgrace... Why waste funds in supporting a separate school for a handful of colored children?"

Reason 4: "Race difficulties will always exist in this country while race barriers are allowed to exist. We say down with every race institution in the land," a Topeka editor wrote in 1878. "[T]he sooner we learn that we are all Americans, the better for all concerned."

Reason 1: "There is no just reason why the colored children should be compelled to attend separate schools. Give the colored children equal school privileges with the whites, and a fair and equal chance in the battle of life," one Atchison man wrote in 1873.

Reason 3: "The effect of separate schools will be that the colored child must learn that the white child is either his superior or inferior," an Atchison citizen wrote in 1876. "[W]hen they grow up to manhood they will not regard each other as men and fellow-citizens."

