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The “Freedom Journal” was founded on March 16, 1827, by a group of free African Americans- who were exhausted with the societal and literary oppositions they were experiencing due to racism and slavery in the United States. This newspaper’s mission was to appeal to the large population of free blacks at that time, and to increase literacy in that group of people. It also was used to recognize the truth behind African American society, and to illuminate accomplishments of groups and individuals who were black, something that white newspapers rarely did. This paper had major success in African American societies, and inspired and uplifted black citizens in their fight for freedom from slavery, and their quest for equality. This journal’s story, and history, show why the freedom of press is essential in the democracy of the United States.

In the first issue of the “Freedom Journal”, editors John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish state, “Too long have others spoken for us, too long has the public been deceived by misrepresentations”. Like stated before, these “misrepresentations” were in reference to many white newspapers at the time, who collectively and generally, had negative and incorrect opinions about blacks. These papers typically depicted slaves as children, who needed support from the whites to survive. They also propagated the negative view that African Americans were inferior and were threats to society if free. These newspapers were racist and bigoted, but due to the freedom of press, sadly, they were able to be published. Fortunately, African Americans were also able to write newspapers, like the “Freedom Journal”, and in these they described many African American accomplishments. These achievements spanned many genres, from African American music, to literary prestige of the same, and showed other African Americans, slave or free, that they were capable of the same prominence that whites were. They in essence, were able to flip the script, and take back their own representation, something white society had stolen from them. Thus we see the importance of the press in a new way. They had to

fight and work for their representation in society, through literary tabloids, something white people often took for granted. African Americans were finally able to begin rising up in society, something they never would have been able to accomplish without the freedom of press.

Even though this tabloid was written long ago, it still has many modern applications. Its entire publication can be counted as a lesson to us all, that when a population is misrepresented, that said population has the ability and power to change what people believe about them. The "Freedom Journal" shows this in a powerful way, and can be considered one of the first steps taken to end bigotry, hate, and misrepresentation of African Americans in the United States. Although mentioned before, it is still true; the freedom of press is essential to the democracy of the United States, and this is shown by the "Freedom Journal"