

Handout K: Andrew Johnson's First Annual Message to Congress, December 1865 Answer Key

1. He supported the Thirteenth Amendment because he saw the end of slavery as necessary to restore the Union. He also believed that ending slavery would enable the middle and working classes to displace the rule of the South's planter aristocracy that he hated. Johnson maintained that it was improper to amend the Constitution when Southern states were not represented in Congress. In addition, he believed that each state should be able to determine who had the right to vote.