Directions: Use this account from an English visitor to New York City to answer the questions that follow.

“Hundreds of Negroes were hurrying to and fro through the streets, these were chiefly laborers, decently dressed, and employed either as draymen or porters. They looked happier than laborers in England . . .”

Source: John Benwell, an English visitor, describes African Americans on the streets of New York City in an account of his travels published in 1857.

Question 1: Explain why a historian might not think that this passage alone provides enough evidence to draw conclusions about the working conditions of African Americans in New York City at the time.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Question 2: Three documents are described below. Explain whether each document could be used to support English traveler John Benwell’s claims about African American laborers in New York City in the 1850s.

a.) An essay by an abolitionist describing the living conditions of American slaves in the 1850s.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

CONTINUE ON BACK
b.) Federal records showing the military rank of African Americans from New York that served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

c.) Data from the 1860 Census showing the occupations of African Americans in each state.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________