**Freedom on the Move – Transcription Assignment**

Guidelines for Instructors:

Using the [*Freedom on the Move*](https://freedomonthemove.org/)database, this in-class transcription workshop will introduce your students to primary source materials that challenge them to read and work through 18th and 19th century runaway slave advertisements. These texts show how White people attempted to control enslaved people who used mobility and personal relationships as a means of escape, negotiation, and control over their own destinies. The advertisements also can provide great detail on the appearances, personalities, skills, relationships, and communities of enslaved people, showing your students both the humanity of enslaved people as well as the people and systems in place that attempted to assert control over enslaved peoples’ bodies and labor.

Distribute the student instructions at least a day ahead of the class session in which students will transcribe these advertisements. Be sure to spend some time instructing students on how to read and decipher historical type and handwriting, as well as on the vocabulary used to describe enslaved people. It will be helpful to dedicate some class time ahead of this assignment to the issues of gender, race, and class with regard to American slavery so that your students have some familiarity with terms and concepts used in the advertisements. Good resources on historical writing and slavery terms include:

<http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/writing.html>

<https://www.millar-project.ed.ac.uk/node/28>

<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/petitions/terms.aspx>

Additionally, you should do a practice run with the transcription software to determine what hiccups students might encounter with accessing the database and filling out information.