REPUBLICAN PARTY – a political party formed in the mid 1850’s, majority supported the end to slavery.

JOHN C FREMONT – explorer, national hero, first presidential nominee for the Republican Party (1856).

JAMES BUCHANAN – Democratic nominee for president (1856), said main goal was to maintain the Union (keep the United States together).

Buchanan won the election of 1856 but it showed that the anti-slavery side had a great deal of power.
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1856

DRED SCOTT – an African American who had been a slave and moved by his master to a state where slavery was illegal

DRED SCOTT CASE – Scott sued for his freedom, claiming that since he was held as a slave where it was illegal he should be free (1857)

Supreme Court ruled that Scott was not an American citizen because he was a slave and thus could not sue

Northerners were outraged and Southerners were happy

ROGER B TANEY – Chief Justice that ruled in the Dred Scott case

ABRAHAM LINCOLN – ran for the Illinois senate seat in 1858, was a Republican
LINCOLN DOUGLAS DEBATES – Lincoln and Stephen Douglas held formal debates throughout Illinois and set the standard for modern day political debates.

Douglas wins the election for the Senate but Lincoln shows he has the potential to win an office in the future.

HARPER’S FERRY – a United States weapon arsenal in Virginia.

JOHN BROWN’S PLAN – Brown wanted to capture the arsenal and then help revolting slaves gain their freedom.
John Brown’s plan does not work – no slaves revolt and join him
Brown is arrested and charged with treason and murder – he is sentenced to hang

the North feels Brown is a hero, the South is glad he is dead
His death brings the slavery issue to the boiling point