

IV. Discuss the Following Analysis Questions

1. What were the possible motivations for Swann to host drag balls?
2. Compare the "masquerade laws" of the 1840s-1880s with contemporary legislation targeting drag performances. How is gender expression being regulated today?
3. In addition to Swann's parties, what other underground systems and non-conforming social structures existed during the Reconstruction Era and into the early 1900s?
4. Which aspects of the First Amendment did Swann exercise with his decision to bar the door in 1888 and petition President Cleveland in 1896? How are these early challenges to governmental authority over civil liberties still exercised in today's world?
5. Swann's petition to President Cleveland was signed by 30 supporters. What were the possible considerations and risks petitioners were willing to take with this collective action?
6. How can media coverage influence public policy and law enforcement priorities? (Cite specific examples from the past and/or present day.)
7. How might social media talk about Swann's drag balls today?

IV. Case Study Question: Is William Dorsey Swann a civil rights pioneer?

Support your answer using your knowledge of 19th-century American history, the Reconstruction era, and social reform movements.

- Incorporate your responses to the analysis questions
- Cite primary sources
- Connect historical patterns to contemporary issues where appropriate