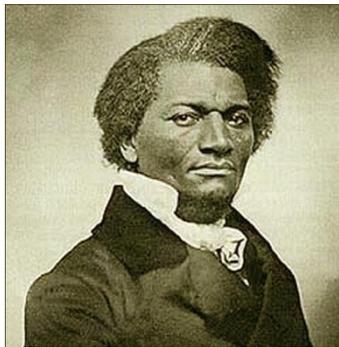


AP English Language Summer Reading Assignment
Beyette
YWLA



Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass



1. You will need to purchase Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass*, read it, then write the four essays below.
2. You will be assessed on how well you can state and support an important interpretive point (thesis). In doing this, you will be locating and ANALYZING important passages from the text. You must completely answer ALL of the following essay questions:
3. With each essay, you must:
 1. Use direct quotes from the book.
 2. Avoid mere plot summary
 3. Provide citations on ALL quotes and paraphrases
 4. Citations will include the author's last name and the page number: (Douglass, 56).

The Essays

1) In Douglass' autobiography, we see examples of numerous different types of oppression experienced by slaves in general and Douglass specifically: physical, intellectual, economic, legal, and emotional/psychological. Based on your analysis of the reading, which type of

oppression has the most significant effect on limiting Douglass' self-empowerment (or in keeping him "down"). YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE TYPE OF OPPRESSION. ***You can, if you wish to, choose to answer question 1 with reference to slaves in general (based on Douglass' observations).

2) In the first paragraph of the narrative, Douglass explains that it is, "the wish of most masters...to keep their slaves thus ignorant" (1). Why would slaveholders want ignorant slaves? Remember to focus on all aspects of the imposed "ignorance," not just the issues around learning to read and write. You must keep your argument grounded in the text.

3) Douglass describes his battle with Mr. Covey as, "the turning point in [his] career as a slave" (43). However, there are many "turning points" in his story. If you had to choose one specific incident in Douglass' narrative as the most significant turning point in his life (you *can* choose his fight with Covey, if you wish), which would it be and why?

4) William Lloyd Garrison, a famous abolitionist, said, "A black man can escape from the South, but he can never escape from slavery." In your opinion, does Douglass' narrative corroborate (confirm) this sentiment or does it dispute it?

ALL ESSAYS DUE THE 2ND FULL DAY OF CLASS!!!