

US History Summer Assignment  
Mr. Marshall  
2011-2012

Read: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* by Frederick Douglass

(This relatively short text can be found free online or on iphone/ipad ebook form or is available through any bookstore)

Assignment:

Throughout the narrative Douglass makes several important points over and over. As you read the narrative **take notes** about each of these topics. Include quotes, insights, personal reflections, and questions. (Helpful hint: annotate in your book with different colored pens/highlighters to help quickly locate information on these points later on).

1. Justice for slaves (and all men of color) is different from justice for whites
2. No one can be enslaved if she or he has the ability to read, write, and think
3. The way to enslave someone is to keep them from all learning
4. Slaves were treated no better than, sometimes worse than, livestock
5. By encouraging depravity men come to learn to hate freedom
6. The Christianity of the slaveholders is hypocritical and used to justify their actions
7. White men fear that men of color will steal their jobs if they are educated and learn how to perform the job

When you are finished reading the autobiography chose 4 of these points to discuss in short written responses. Each response should be 2-3 typed paragraphs in length and site specific passages in the text (no 1 citation/anecdote should appear more than once). Your response should attempt to summarize what Douglass is attempting to convey to the reader and also your own understanding from the reading.

**Due Dates:**

On the first day of class:

- Instructions for turning in a **digital copy** for plagiarism review/grading will be provided for **submission on that day** (have digital copy available on campus, via email or flash drive).
- There will be a **quiz** on the book on the first day of class