



Frederick Douglass Wikipedia Task

Use this task to gauge student thinking about Wikipedia. Remind students that in the 1880s, Frances Rollin Whipper worked in the office of the prominent abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass. Have students complete the Frederick Douglass formative assessment as an exit ticket or "do now" to start the next class period.

Using the [Evaluating Wikipedia - Frederick Douglass rubric](#) as a guide, review responses to get a sense of what students' understandings and preconceptions are of Wikipedia.

After you've reviewed students' responses, discuss the assessment with students. Provide examples of both strong responses and common misconceptions you noticed in the students' responses (without attributing answers to individual students). You might also choose to show this Civic Online Reasoning video for students: <https://youtu.be/ih4dY9i9JKE>

Reinforce with students how Wikipedia can be a powerful source of historical information when used wisely. This Civic Online Reasoning video for teachers may be useful to consult: <https://youtu.be/ZzcjS1aDojA>.

When signed into Google Drive, make a copy of the task using this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/1LNFBYPQtd-qMiRNPhwpYtWVZpyOqluuzqXqV2cYbZeQ/copy>

If you're unable to access Wikipedia on your school computers, you can try using this archived link instead:
https://web.archive.org/web/20240613121728/https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Douglass

If neither are available to you, you could share this full-page screenshot with students:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FC_9k4bAwpgfCXkj9agnMFRQXMr5CLU/view?usp=drive_link