

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl

Final Essay Prototype Assignment

DUE: Final version DUE December 15th (*subject to change*)

The choices: Choose one of the essay prompts below and then create an **essay prototype** (see below)

- 1.) Douglass/Jacobs: Both narratives address the motif of “masks.” In what ways do “masks” serve as a means to survive?
- 2.) Douglass/Jacobs: Compare and contrast a thematic element from each autobiography (family, gender, education, sexuality, violence, Christianity, etc.). What is the effect of this element, and the way the author approaches it, in each text?
- 3.) Douglass/Jacobs: Compare and contrast a selected passage from each autobiography. What are the literary and/or rhetorical tools that each author employs and how do those techniques contribute to a larger argument/purpose of their narratives?
- 4.) Develop a topic of your own (this option requires a check-in with your teacher). This can be Douglass/Jacobs or a comparative/contrasting aspect WITHIN one particular text.
 - Some potential topics to consider in crafting your own prompt:
 - Intention and impact of moments of “silence” in the narrative
 - The ways in which each author approaches their own depiction and persona
 - Compare intentions of autobiographical narratives over time

The essay prototype: Selecting from the prompts above, you will create a **detailed outline** AND at least **three fully developed paragraphs** of an essay: your introduction (with a thesis); one of your body paragraphs with a claim-based topic sentence, two pieces of well-introduced and integrated supporting evidence, and close reading/analysis that develops your interpretation; and your conclusion.

English 11 Rubric Items:

- 1. Understanding Literature: Form and Function
- 2. Connecting Texts and Contexts
- 3. Close Reading and Argumentation
- 4. Structure
- 5. Writing Mechanics
- 6. The Writer’s Voice
- 8. Responsibility

Overall Requirements

- ☐ Use a variety of pieces of evidence from the text in support of your claims, appropriately cited in [MLA format](#)
- ☐ Use 12-point font (e.g. Times New Roman, Garamond, Adobe Caslon Pro, etc.), 1-inch margins, and double spacing
- ☐ Include an MLA formatted header with your name, section, and date on the upper left of the first page and MLA page headings with your last name and page number on the upper right of each page
- ☐ Create a title that is creative and conveys the topic of your response
- ☐ Submit by providing a PRINTED VERSION and a URL IN CANVAS to a Google Doc in which you have created editing privileges for your teacher