

Name _____ # _____

Date _____ Period _____

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON VERSUS W.E.B. DUBOIS



In the aftermath of the Civil War, African American leaders debated different plans for achieving racial equality. Booker T. Washington believed the initial focus should be on educating African Americans for practical trade jobs. W.E.B. DuBois insisted that achieving equal rights was essential. For this assignment, you will be evaluating two

primary sources; a speech of Washington's and a selection from DuBois's *The Souls of Black Folk*. In specific, you will complete the discussion questions on the reverse side of this sheet. Be prepared to discuss the essential question: What upsets people?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Washington has been a very controversial figure. Some historians say that he was a sell-out who kissed up to white people; others say he was realistic about the situation in the South, and tried to avoid inciting white hostility. What do you think and why? Circle one.

Why? realistic sell-out other both

Evidence:

1.

2.

2. What was DuBois' critique of Washington?

Do you think Washington made a good point?

Why or why not?

3. Why might some of Washington's supporters say that DuBois didn't understand what life was like in the South? Based on what he wrote, do you think DuBois was clueless about what was happening in the South?

4. Based on these documents, who do you think was a stronger advocate for the rights of African Americans: Booker T. Washington or W.E.B. DuBois? Why? Include two examples in your answer.

The stronger advocate was _____

Why?

Evidence:

1.

2.

5. Is there a way to look at these two people and argue that they both are equally strong advocates for the rights of African Americans?

How could they both be right?

6. Who was most upset about Washington's views?

Why?

7. Who was most upset about the views of W.E.B DuBois?

Why?

8. Flip back a few pages in your composition book to find the "School Begins" cartoon. Look at the context of the entire cartoon.

Who is depicted Washington or DuBois?

List your evidence. How much can you find?

