

## DOCUMENT 2: W.E.B. DUBOIS (MODIFIED)



The most influential public critique of Booker T. Washington came in 1903 when black leader and intellectual W.E.B. DuBois published an essay in his book, *The Souls of Black Folk*. DuBois rejected Washington's message and instead called for political power, insistence on civil rights, and the higher education of African-American youth. DuBois was born and raised a free man in Massachusetts and was the first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard. He was also a founding member of the NAACP.

Mr. Washington practically accepts the alleged inferiority of the Negro races. Mr. Washington withdraws many of the high demands of Negroes as men and American citizens. He asks that black people give up, at least for the present, three things—

First, political power; Second, insistence on civil rights; Third, higher education of Negro youth,

— and concentrate all their energies on industrial education, the accumulation of wealth, and the pacifying (calming down) of the South. As a result of this tender of the palm-branch (peace offering), what has been the return? In these years there have occurred:

1. The disfranchisement (taking away the right to vote) of the Negro; 2. The legal creation of a distinct status of civil inferiority for the Negro; 3. The steady withdrawal of aid from institutions for the higher training of the Negro.

Mr. Washington's doctrine has tended to make the whites, North and South, shift the burden of the Negro problem to the Negro's shoulders and stand aside as critical spectators (onlookers); when in fact the burden belongs to the nation, and the hands of none of us are clean if we do not all work on righting these great wrongs.

Source: W. E. B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Chicago, 1903).

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER: DOCUMENT 2 – W.E.B. DUBOIS

<p><b>Historical Reading Skill</b></p>	<p><b>After reading the bold printed introduction</b>, complete the section on sourcing. Then carefully read the entire document, compare this reading with Document 1, and complete the rest of the graphic organizer.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sourcing</b> consider who wrote a document as well as the circumstances of its creation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(Before Reading the Document)</b></p>	<p>W.E.B. DuBois probably believes...</p> <p>I think the audience is...</p> <p>Based on the sourcing information, I predict DuBois will...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Contextualization</b> locate this document in time and place and to understand how these factors shape its content</p>	<p>From this document I would guess that African Americans at this time were feeling...</p> <p>This might not give me the whole picture of Booker T. Washington because...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Close Reading</b> evaluate sources and analyze rhetoric</p>	<p>DuBois is trying to convince readers that...</p> <p>The most powerful line in this speech is... (explain)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Corroboration</b> consider details across multiple sources to determine points of agreement and disagreement</p>	<p>Together, these two documents tell me that at this time...</p>