

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

7<sup>th</sup> Grade US History

**Essential Question: Was Frederick Douglass a terrorist, a liberator or both?**

**Focus Question: Why was Frederick Douglass considered “complicated?”**

**Day 1**

Match the quotes with the person who said them:

Choices:

Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Robert E. Lee,  
Jefferson Davis, Frederick Douglass

1) I am a Republican, a black, dyed in the wool  
Republican, and I never intend to belong to any  
other party than the party of freedom and  
progress.

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2) It is easier to build strong children than to  
repair broken men.

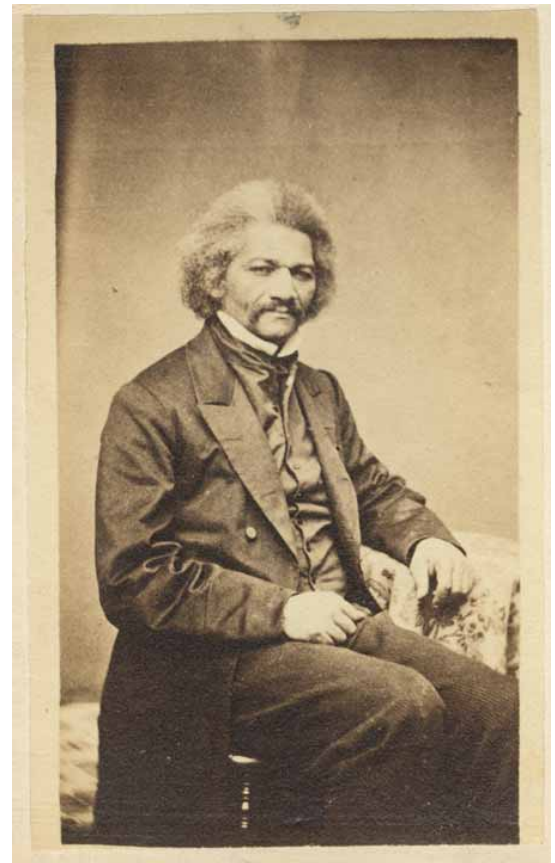
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3) The life of a nation is secure only while the  
nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.

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4) Without a struggle, there can be no progress.

\_\_\_\_\_



24 October 2007, University of Rochester Frederick Douglass  
Project, < <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=2494>>

5) At a time like this, scorching iron, not convincing argument, is needed.

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Use the quotes to answer the following questions:

1) Does Douglas believe in violence? Explain

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2) Does Douglas believe in peace? Explain

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3) Does Douglas believe in law? Explain

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4) Are Douglass' thoughts consistent? Is he "complicated"? If so, why? Explain

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**Focus Question: Why did Douglass help John Brown? Was this right?**



**Day 2**

1) After viewing the video clip from Biography.com what is your “gut reaction?”

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2) Is violence ever justified? Explain/Give Examples

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Show pictures of slavery.

3) Do you still agree with your answer to #3? Explain

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4) Do you agree with John Brown and Frederick Douglass? Explain.

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5) “What drove Frederick Douglas to do the things he did?”

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6) Would you have done the same thing if you were him? Explain

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Create a timeline of key events (at least 4) in slavery/antislavery (use your book 422-427, 432-433, 439-442)

7) What was the major challenge that Frederick Douglas faced? Use your prior knowledge for this. Please give a specific example. “There was a lot of racism” is too broad – get specific.

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**Essential Question: Was Frederick Douglas a terrorist or a liberator or both?**

**Day 3 & 4 in Media Center**

Frederick Douglass has been described as a complicated person. (Ask class Do you know any complicated people? What makes them complicated?)

You will use the writings of Frederick Douglass to produce one of the following

- 1) Interview with Frederick Douglass about his philosophy (ideas) and his actions. Here are some examples of questions you could ask him: Would you still be a Republican? Would you be happy with present day society? Do you feel like you made a difference in America? Why did you help John Brown? Who is your modern day equivalent?
  
- 2) Create an opening argument (a speech) telling a jury why Douglass should be found not guilty of any crime by helping John Brown. Be sure to address the weaknesses in Douglass's actions. Remember: after assisting John Brown in planning a raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in order to incite a slave revolt, Douglass declined to join the expedition. When the plan failed, Douglass fled to England for six months to avoid prosecution. 1859
  
- 3) Write an obituary for Douglass. What should he be remembered for and why.
  
- 4) If you grew up a slave in the South during the time of Douglass' childhood, would you support Douglass' ideas and actions?

**Discussion on Day 5**

Students will receive a class guided class discussion handout.

**Day 6 Due Date for Project –**

Selected Presentations (volunteers and draftees)

Sources:

Biography.com video clips:

<http://www.biography.com/broadband/main.do?video=bio-top250-frederickdouglass-impassionedspeaker>

National Parks Website for a tour of Douglass's house:

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/hafe/douglass.htm>

Time Line from University of Illinois and Purdue University Indianapolis:

[http://www.iupui.edu/~douglass/FD\\_Timeline.htm](http://www.iupui.edu/~douglass/FD_Timeline.htm)

Other Useful Online Links

National Archives

PBS

NPS

Biography.com

University of Rochester Frederick Douglass Project (this was very useful):

<http://www.library.rochester.edu/index.cfm?page=2494>

Text Book:

The American Nation: Beginnings through 1877 authored by James West Davidson  
published by Prentice Hall 2003