

## AP English Language Summer Assignment

I hope you will become engrossed in the story of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, a former slave who became an important historical figure. You need to purchase a hard copy of the autobiography; your assignment will be to write in it.

Required Text: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*: ISBN-13: 978-1513279725  
(This particular version is required so we'll have the same page numbers; it is the hardcover version)

Your assignment is to do 3 things that will be due on the day we return in August:

1. Annotate in your book. Highlight, underline, write notes. (I even like to write short notes at the tops of pages like "learns to write" so I can remember where to find it for later) You need to understand Rev. Douglass as well as possible - what gets him to the level he eventually will reach? You will have an in-class exam that will allow you to use your book for specific quotes, therefore, you need to make good notes. Use sticky notes, too!
2. Come with some prewriting for an essay (not an already written essay) regarding knowledge and education or on the "Christianity of Christ" as opposed to the "Christianity of this land" that Douglass discusses in the appendix. Have multiple specific quotes highlighted for this.
3. Brainstorm (in legible handwriting on paper) for a poem that you will write. Notice how Douglass uses poetry excerpts and includes one in his appendix. Your poem will be about slavery, or the society of slavery, and the pathos (feeling-inducing appeal) that reading his story brings you. Always remember that "a poem elevates the soul. A poem appeals to human senses. A poem has a speaker. A poem has a purpose. A poem has a tone" (Ham).

*Quick note from Mrs. Williams. I look forward to meeting each of you in August! Just so you know who you are dealing with: I am a former AP English Literature teacher who is currently teaching junior English elsewhere, and I am a minister's wife who has degrees in psychology, secondary English Ed., and Theological Studies. Here is what I need from you. I need you to laugh. If you are a stoic person, I need you to schedule a surgery this summer to add a funny bone because laughing is a requirement of spending 10 months with me. Is AP serious? Yes. Can we still enjoy it? Absolutely. Do I tell jokes? No, but maybe I'll learn some this summer. Who knows what can happen?! The possibilities are endless! Enjoy your summer, but also, get stuff done.*

Know that you are already important to me, and I am praying for you.