

Black History Month Essay Prompt

DIRECTIONS: Students must read this sheet and complete a Black History Month Essay along these guidelines. The essay is due at the beginning of class on Friday, February 23. This assignment will count as a project grade and several classwork grades over the next month.

Your task is to pick a figure from black history and write an **original* informative** (it provides information) and **persuasive** (it convinces me of an argument) **essay explaining why we should have a holiday to celebrate your chosen person.**

Your essay must include:

- An **introduction paragraph**, with a clearly-stated and effective **thesis**.
- At least **three body paragraphs** supporting your thesis and backed-up with **evidence**.
- A **conclusion paragraph**, which restates your **thesis**.
- All of the appropriate **text features** that we will review in class.

The essay must be:

- **Typed and printed.****
- **At least two pages.**
- **Double-spaced.**
- **Times New Roman** typeface, at **12-point font.**

Your essay will be graded based on the following:

- **Development:** How you explore and explain your argument throughout the essay.
- **Organization:** How the argument is structured and fulfills the requirements and directions of the prompt.
- **Language:** The essay's spelling, punctuation, grammar, style, word usage, and tone.

You must be prepared to **edit, revise, and change** your essay, as well as **share** it with the class.

Important Dates:

- Monday, **January 22:** Students will receive the **assignment prompt** and **rubric**.
- Tuesday, **February 20:** Students must have a **rough draft** (typed or hand-written) of their essay at the beginning of class.
- Friday, **February 23:** Students must have a typed **final copy** of their essay at the beginning of class.

Mr. Stapleton is more than willing to meet with students to discuss their essays and provide feedback before the due date. If you wish to meet with him, you must schedule a time **after school**. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about this assignment, you must speak to Mr. Stapleton **sooner rather than later**.

*Essays that **plagiarize** (copy information without quoting or giving credit) will receive an **automatic zero**. If you plagiarize, you **will** fail the Second Nine Weeks. Just use quotes instead!

If you **absolutely cannot print your essay, email it to Mr. Stapleton at **pstapleton@nbcisd.k12.ms.us** (handwritten essays will receive a point deduction based on sloppiness and incorrect format). If you email your essay, you **must** email it in its entirety by **11:59 PM on Thursday, February 22**. Essays received after this point will be considered late. Essay attachments that are missing or corrupted will be given an automatic zero until the actual essay is submitted.