

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition**  
**Summer Assignment—2018**  
**Mrs. Olinda Martin, Teacher**

For an initial evaluation of your abilities as a writer and thinker, you will be required to read one book: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass. You may use any edition. This is an autobiography that was first published in 1845, over a decade before the Civil War, and it established Frederick Douglass as a great African-American leader, much due to his outstanding rhetoric.

Assignment: In an essay, explore four similes and/or metaphors at different points in the book that Douglass uses to express his ideas. What are these similes/metaphors and explain how they are effective or ineffective. For instance, if he said slavery was a delicious piece of chocolate cake, he would be suggesting that slavery was a delightful part of American history, a historical reality that was not essential to our understanding of American history, just as dessert is never essential to a meal. This metaphor would be not only ineffective but totally distasteful to all modern Americans. Needless to say, Douglass does NOT use this metaphor! Please do not collaborate with others, and do not do research! Quote from the book as necessary.

Use the MLA format which begins below on this assignment sheet or if you are reading this on Mead High School's website, go to a current MLA guideline on-line for models and instructions.

The essay is due by 3 p.m., on Monday, 20 August, in the Mead High School's main office. The office is open each Monday of the summer, so you may turn it in early on any Monday. Ask a secretary to place it in Mrs. Martin's box.

I am looking forward to a very productive, challenging, and exciting class with you this coming year. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition is a marvelous opportunity for understanding other writers, for becoming a better writer yourself, for preparing for college, and possibly for achieving college credit.

Your papers will be scored and returned to you for examination during the first week of class when we will begin the study of rhetoric, using this book as a fabulous start.

Have a great summer.

Mrs. Olinda Martin  
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Mead High School  
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## Guide to MLA Format

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Spacing: Double-spaced THROUGHOUT

Margins: 1 inch side-to-side and top-to-bottom.

No title page! No folder! No cover! Just staple together in the upper left hand corner.

Class information goes in the upper left corner:

Your name  
Teacher's name  
Class Title  
Date due (Day/Month/Year) 18 August 2014

This is how your paper should look in MLA Format

Your Name	Last Name 1
Mrs. Olinda Martin	
AP Language Period _(when you know!)_____	
20 August 2019	
Title	
Begin your essay with an introduction that concludes with your thesis statement (opinion or claim). Then follow with strong, supporting paragraphs.	
Double-space the entire essay. Write applying all the instructions you have had over the years about what makes a good essay.	

The header consisting of your last name and page number appears in the upper right-hand corner of the paper.

Title – The title should say something meaningful about the paper. Giving your paper a title such as Essay Assignment tells the reader nothing! Never use the title of the book being studied as your title.

Indent one full tab with each paragraph! However, do not add an extra line space between paragraphs.

Use internal documentation: Example: The author uses a powerful compound sentence when he writes, “His mangled body sank out of sight, and blood and brains marked the water where he stood” (Douglass 39). The information found within parentheses is the author’s last name and the page where the quote is found.

As you write your analysis of this book, be sure to check carefully for convention errors along with using the correct MLA format. Note the added information I have included on the next page:

## MLA Citations

If you include any quotes from the book, please note the correct way to punctuate the citations. Always introduce or conclude the quote with your own words.

**Wrong:** “Al grew tense over the wheel. A little rattle had developed in the engine. He speeded up and the rattle increased.” (p. 225)

**Right:** Steinbeck describes the driver’s connection to the car: “Al grew tense over the wheel. A little rattle had developed in the engine. He speeded up and the rattle increased” (Steinbeck 225).

Pay careful attention to the correct ordering of the quotes, parentheses and punctuation. If you are using multiple sources, you must use the author’s last name before the page number in the citation.

If you are using just a single source, you do not need to include the author’s name in the citation.

When you are quoting a character who is speaking in a particular passage, offset the person speaking with single quotation marks (‘’) within the standard double quotation marks (see example).

Slang is used well by Twain in the following: “So the hair-ball talked to Jim, and Jim told it to me. He says: ‘Yo ole father doan’ know yit what he’s a-gwyne to do’” (18).

If you use a quote longer than four lines or 25 words, it must be shown as a BLOCK QUOTE (see example.)

That spices have all but lost their luster in the twenty-first century is in large measure because much of the mystery has gone out of the trade and the places where they grow. Paradise survives not as a place but as a symbol. Yet for centuries spices and Paradise were inseparable, joined together in a relationship whose durability was guaranteed by the fact that it could not be disproved. (Turner 46)

\*\*\* Please note quotation marks are not used in block quotes. Furthermore, block quotes are indented one full tab on the LEFT only. The citation for the quote appears at the end, but the punctuation is before the parentheses and not after as it is when the quote is within the standard text. Make sure to punctuate correctly.

