

ACADEMIC ESSAY ABSTRACT ASSIGNMENT

Directions: Answer the following questions. Responses *MUST* be typed, following the format and instructions outlined below.

1.) Identify the author(s) and text(s) you plan to explore—**Note:** the author(s) and text(s) must be selected from the assigned readings for the course (reference syllabus). Limit is two.

- **Author:** Booker T. Washington
- **Title of text:** Atlanta Compromise speech by Booker T. Washington
- **Author** (write N/A if none): N/A
- **Title of text** (write N/A if none): N/A

2.) Write your proposed thesis:

- Booker T. Washington argues that African Americans have to make themselves stronger to go from base to top, and urge whites and blacks to make more companions to help each other in future.

3.) Provide at least one critical analysis you plan to include in your essay. Ex. Identify a point or idea you have that relates to the thesis above that incorporates textual evidence to support the claim. Be sure to reference the direct quote or give a summary of the part/scene in the text (with page number):

- “Cast down your bucket where you are.” Cast it down among the eight millions of Negroes whose habits you know, whose fidelity and love you have tested in days when to have proved treacherous meant the ruin of your fireside. Cast down your bucket among these people who have without strikes and labor wars tilled your fields, cleared your forests, builded your railroads and cities, brought forth treasures from the bowels of the earth, just to make possible this magnificent representation of the progress of the South. Page-2
- we shall stand by you with a devotion that no foreigner can approach, ready to lay down our lives, if need be, in defense of yours, interlacing our industrial, commercial, civil, and religious life with yours in a way that shall make the interests of both races one. In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress. Page-4
- Cast it down in agriculture, mechanics, in commerce, in domestic service, and in the professions. And in this connection it is well to bear in mind that whatever other sins the South may be called to bear, when it comes to business, pure and simple, it is in the South that the Negro is given a man’s chance in the commercial world, and in nothing is this Exposition more eloquent than in emphasizing this chance. Page-2
- There is no defense or security for any of us except in the highest intelligence and development of all. If anywhere there are efforts tending to curtail the fullest growth of the Negro, let these efforts be turned into stimulating, encouraging, and making him the most useful and intelligent citizen. Effort or means so invested will pay a thousand percent interest. These efforts will be twice blessed—blessing him that gives and him that takes. Page-4

