Research for Essay: Student Handout

1. What was the person’s dream/goal?

2. What relevant background information about the person’s life would be important to know in order to appreciate the person’s accomplishment?

3. What obstacles did the person face? What was the person’s attitude toward those obstacles?

4. How did the person overcome the obstacles?

5. What has been the person’s legacy or impact on society?

6. How does this person’s story inspire you?

Citation Instruction:

In order to give the authors due credit and avoid plagiarism, you must document each article by creating an MLA citation for each article. For an MLA citation, you will need the author, title of source, title of container, other contributors, version, number, publisher, publication date, and location. If any part of this list is not available, you simply skip that part. Let me show you an example from today’s instruction:

Last name of author, first name. “Title.” Container, Version, Number, Publisher, Publication Date, Location.

Roos, Amanda Hamilton. “Turning the Page: Frederick Douglass Learns to Read.” American Reading Company, ARC Press, 2014,

https://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/turning\_the\_page\_\_frederick\_douglass\_learns\_to\_

read\_small.pdf.

Notice that version and number did not apply to this citation. Also, if an exact date is given, such as April 1, 2014, the format for writing the date in a citation is 1 Apr. 2014. This is day followed by abbreviated month (and a period) followed by year. The URL should be included, but the link to the url should be removed. You can remove the hyperlink by right-clicking on the hyperlink with your mouse and selecting “Remove Hyperlink.”

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Independent Practice continued

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**Answer Key:**

1. What was the person’s dream/goal?

Frederick Douglass was a captive slave who wanted to be free. He also wanted to learn to read and write.

2. What relevant background information about the person’s life would be important to know in order to appreciate the person’s accomplishment?

Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey was born into slavery in Maryland in 1818. Douglass’s mother died when he was young, and he never knew his father.

Douglass was sent to Baltimore to work for a different family but later sent back.

3. What obstacles did the person face? What was the person’s attitude toward those obstacles?

He was born into slavery, he wasn’t allowed to go to school, he lost his mother at an early age, and he was mistreated by his “owner.”

Specifically, he was whipped brutally and was often cold and hungry. And, he planned an attempted escape that failed. His attitude toward these obstacles was a desire to fight against the injustices and one day become free. He kept trying even after his first escape attempt failed.

4. How did the person overcome the obstacles?

He taught himself to read in the streets of Baltimore. He read whatever he could find. With the help of money from his friend Anna Murray, he disguised himself as a sailor and boarded a northbound train; he escaped to freedom in New York.

5. What has been the person’s legacy or impact on society?

He has inspired the leaders of his time to abolish slavery and grant African Americans U.S. citizenship. Even after his death, he has inspired millions to fight for equality for African Americans and women. Douglass continued reading and learning after he escaped. He was a great public speaker, and he had a long career as an orator in the northeast U.S. and abroad. He also produced a newspaper under various titles.

6. How does this person’s story inspire you? Answers will vary.