

Student's name

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Course

Date

Reaction Paper. Frederick Douglass

My personal attitude to the slavery is negative and related to the certain historical facts, events and public figures that used to fight for the rights of oppressed people, who had lived long years ago under the rule of masters. One of such persons was Frederick Douglass, who was born into slavery but sacrificed much of his life to make himself and other black people free, standing for the rights to reach the main goal – abolition of the. Frederick Douglass showed the great example to the nation of how to fight for the rights of freedom that are the background of the Western civilization.

The Personality of Frederick Douglass

Although Frederick Douglass was neither a soldier, nor a politician in the Civil War between the North and the South, he was really an important public figure, and some online sources even call him “consciousness of the nation” (Frederick Douglass Documentary). He stood against the slavery not only until he got free, but he fought until the other people became free of slavery, as well. I understand, it used to be hard to survive due to aggressive physical and mental health conditions, under circumstances, when injustice and breaking the law were a common daily practice from his early childhood. Frederick Douglass saw it and kept one thing in his mind: this “inhuman system” was grounded on the total control of people; “brutal beating”, which was really “terrible for the human eye” could no longer exist in the normal country, under the normal government and law (Frederick Douglass Documentary).

It seems that even by his appearance Frederick Douglass was a person who deserved trust. Even his “speaking style”, “rich tone voice”, “deep baritone” told people that this person is highly educated and intelligent. Frederick tried to get an education from his childhood, indeed. He was born at the Colonel Andrew Lloyd’s plantation, and he had no chances to get a good education. However, later, when he moved to Baltimore and then relocated to other places, he tried to learn more information from the books that he always had with him. I really admire the boy who managed to get books and was interested in reading. Nowadays not many young people are trying to get a good education, or they just do it for their parents or, in some other cases, just for the sake of gaining diplomas and grades, with the prospects of getting a good job. Unlike contemporary students, Frederick Douglass was really interested in education for an outstanding positive goal, - not for the money or success, but for giving the chance for his nation to be free.

**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. Written by
Himself**

The book by Frederick Douglass is worth reading as it consists of many reasonable ideas. However, the most interesting in it is the real story of the life of typical American slave, who lived in slavery for long time, from the author’s point of view. He tried to depict the life, filled with sufferings and sorrow. People were forced to work under the hot sun and given little to eat to sustain their living, and everything in their lives was under control, even family relations and marriages. Some children, including Frederick Douglass, had no chances even to see their mothers, for they could live at different masters. It was very cruel, and this was the reason why the war between the North and South started in the 19th century.

I like this passage from the book by Frederick Douglass, as these simple words make me think of how freedom is important for the life of every human being.

We were all ranked together at the valuation. Men and women, old and young, married and single, were ranked with horses, sheep, and swine. There were horses and men, cattle and women, pigs and children, all holding the same rank in the scale of being, and were all subjected to the same narrow examination. Silvery-headed age and sprightly youth, maids and matrons had to undergo the same indelicate inspection. At this moment, I saw more clearly than ever the brutalizing effects of slavery upon both slave and slaveholder. (Douglass 39)

Sadly, these people were really equal in their sufferings, and the worst is that they were treated like animals, and they had no chances to break free and get the hope for the normal life. All I feel during the reading of this passage is the overwhelming compassion, and even anger. As we know from the ancient philosophy, all the people are the God's creatures who were born as equal. Why then some people are trying to control others, without even giving them a chance to speak out their opinions and thoughts, living the free life, making plans, raising their children?

Unfortunately, even nowadays, in some countries we see the facts of slavery. Although these facts are really illegal, some people are trying to buy and sell people. The government of every country can face this problem if there are no perfect laws or they do not work profoundly. The modern slavery is hidden from view, but still it is a great problem that should be solved once and forever. People should not suffer, and all of them should have the possibility to live in freedom, with their families. Even working extra hours for a small pay (as is the case in some countries) is a form of slavery. Therefore, we should not take freedom for granted, and Frederick Douglass showed the example of how we can manage difficult situations and give response to the cruel acts and regimes that stand against freedom.

Works Cited

- Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. Written by Himself*. Boston: Anti-Slavery Office, No. 25, Cornhill, 1845. Print.
- Frederick Douglass. *Documentary*. Youtube. Web. 24 June.