Terms and Concepts for Discussion  
*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave  
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**Nonfiction**: writings that convey factual information and are not primarily works of the creative imagination

**Autobiography**: an account of somebody's life written by that person

**Narrative**: a story or an account of a sequence of events in the order in which they happened

**Bildungsroman**: a novel about the moral and psychological growth of the main character

**Primary Source**: firsthand; obtained directly from a person, usually as an eyewitness to history.

**Slavery:** the practice of, or a system based on, using the enforced labor of other people; a state of being completely dominated by another

**Abolition**: the official ending of the practice of slavery

**Abolitionist**: an opponent of slavery; an antislavery campaigner in the 18th and 19th centuries

**Chattel**: moveable property; Chattels are typically movable property chattels personal, e.g. furniture or cars, but in this context it was used to describe human property (slaves).

**Antithesis**: philosophy a proposition that is the opposite of another already proposed thesis

**Irony:** incongruity, something that happens that is incongruous with what might be expected to happen, especially when this seems absurd or laughable

**Rhetoric:** speech or writing that communicates its point persuasively (to write rhetorically)

**Litotes:** is a rhetorical technique which employs an understatement by using double negatives or, in other words, positive statement is expressed by negating its opposite expressions. (as in “not a bad singer” or “not unhappy”) *“Indeed, it is not uncommon for slaves even to fall out and quarrel among themselves about the relative goodness of their masters, each contending for the superior goodness of his own over that of the others.”*

**Apostrophe:** the addressing of a usually absent person or a usually personified thing, sometimes represented by the exclamation “O”. A writer or a speaker, using an apostrophe, detaches from the reality and addresses an imaginary character (God perhaps) in the speech.

**Ethos**: a rhetorical appeal using authority or expertise as the basis for persuading an audience.

**Pathos**: a rhetorical appeal using evocative imagery, words, or stories to elicit strong emotions from an audience

**Logos**: a rhetorical appeal using good reasoning or coming to logical conclusions as a means of persuading an audience.

Active Voice Verbs for Sentence Construction

Frederick Douglass…

appeals  
argues  
asserts  
concludes  
condemns  
depicts   
elucidates  
emphasizes   
exemplifies  
expounds   
illustrates  
implores   
justifies  
offers  
outlines   
provides  
raises   
reasons   
reflects  
represents  
symbolizes  
transforms  
uses  
voices  
warns