

ang070 S/Ü "Key Concepts in Cultural Studies"

Assignment 1: Identity, Discourse, Media - Print Media: Slave Narrative

This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but you will receive feedback. Additionally, a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki.

Please make sure to submit your assignment stapled together but not bound in any folder. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.

Please analyse the following passages by addressing the tasks below:

Mr. Freeland was himself the owner of but two slaves. Their names were Henry Harris and John Harris. [...] Henry and John were quite intelligent, and in a very little while after I went there, I succeeded in creating in them a strong desire to learn how to read. This desire soon sprang up in the others also. They very soon mustered up some old spelling-books, and nothing would do but that I must keep a Sabbath school. I agreed to do so, and accordingly devoted my Sundays to teaching these my loved fellow-slaves how to read. [...] It was necessary to keep our religious masters at St. Michael's unacquainted with the fact, that, instead of spending the Sabbath in wrestling, boxing, and drinking whisky, we were trying to learn how to read the will of God; for they had much rather see us engaged in those degrading sports, than to see us behaving like intellectual, moral, and accountable beings. My blood boils as I think of the bloody manner in which Messrs. Wright Fairbanks and Garrison West, both classleaders, in connection with many others, rushed in upon us with sticks and stones, and broke up our virtuous little Sabbath school, at St. Michael's – calling themselves Christians! humble followers of the Lord Jesus Christ! (Douglass 57-58)

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. Eds. William L Andrews and William S. McFeely. New York and London: Norton, 2017.

1. Formal and media-specific analysis

1. Comment briefly on relevant formal aspects (narration, focalisation, etc.).
2. Identify various discourses in the given passages by considering terms / vocabulary; settings / institutions; subject positions / roles.

2. Functional analysis: Toward a problem-oriented sample analysis

Based on the data generated through your formal and media-specific analysis, provide a **coherently written** analysis with a clear research problem that addresses the following points:

1. the discursive constructedness and representations of identity;
2. the relevant contexts (historical, cultural, literary, generic, etc.).

3. Comparison and/or contrast: Second passage

Suggest one other passage from the text that contrasts and/or corresponds with the given passage in an aspect relevant to your research problem. Briefly discuss how both passages relate to the problem by addressing differences in representation and their possible functions.

4. Lecture

In a short concluding paragraph, relate your analysis to knowledge and skills from the lecture.