



Purpose: What exactly do I want to happen?

Audience: Who is reading, listening, or viewing?

Conventions: What is expected in this context?

Trouble: What could get in the way of my goals?

English 241: Understanding Douglass’s PACT with Readers:

Activity: Use the table below to organize your analysis of PACT in Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*.

	Purpose: What exactly does Douglass want to happen?	Audience: Who is reading, listening, or viewing: 1) Which characters take on the roles of reader, listener, or viewer? 2) What kind of reader, listener, or viewer does Douglass need us to be?	Conventions: What is expected in this context? One convention that came to be expected of narratives on slavery after Wells Brown and Douglass was the literacy narrative. Discuss this convention or a different one.	Trouble: What could get in the way of Douglass’s goals? Identify one goal of his narrative, and consider what could get in the way of it.
Identify a passage (include quote/summary and page numbers) in Douglass’s narrative that helps you understand each part of PACT.	Passage:	Passage:	Passage:	Passage:
Analyze how the passages chosen help you understand PACT. For example, explain the how the passage selected for “Purpose” conveys purpose.	Purpose:	1) 2)	Convention:	Goal: Trouble:
Name two elements of close reading that help you understand the passages chosen.	1) 2)	1) 2)	1) 2)	1) 2)

Questions:

1. If you were writing a thesis statement about Douglass’s use of one part of PACT, which part would you choose?
2. Turn one part of PACT into a specific **topic** for a working thesis. For example: “the convention of the literacy narrative in Douglass’s piece.”
3. Create a working thesis statement by **commenting** on the **topic** above. For example, you could comment on the convention of the literacy narrative in Douglass’s piece.