

Unwritten Freedom Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

You may share the following framework with your students to help them with writing their narratives:

- **Paragraph 1:** Douglass reflects on not being able to learn.
- **Paragraph 2:** Life in slavery or after escape without literacy.
- **Paragraph 3:** Effect on history and closing reflection.

Note: Student work will vary widely; below are guiding samples for teachers.

Sample Alternate Ending Narrative

Paragraph 1:

I never learned to read or write. My master's warning proved true: I was kept in ignorance, and the door to knowledge was forever closed. Without letters, words, or books, I remained bound in ways even chains could not match.

Paragraph 2:

When I escaped to the North, I found freedom in body but not in spirit. Unable to write my own story or deliver speeches with power, I struggled to convince others of the truth of slavery's cruelty. My voice was weaker, my influence smaller, and the cause of abolition suffered without my testimony.

Paragraph 3:

History itself would be different. Without the Narrative I never wrote, thousands would not have been stirred to action. I see now that literacy was my sword and shield; the very weapon that allowed me to fight for freedom. To be denied literacy is to be denied the fullness of humanity.