

Name _____



Literacy as Freedom

Directions: Frederick Douglass believed literacy was the gateway to freedom. His fight to read and write helped him escape slavery and inspire others. In this activity, you will connect **Douglass's themes of literacy and freedom** to modern struggles for equality.

Then and Now Matching: Match Douglass's experience (A-E) with a modern struggle (1-5) that reflects a similar theme. Write the letter next to the correct number.

- A. Learning in secret after being forbidden to read.
- B. Realizing that knowledge made him painfully aware of injustice.
- C. Using his literacy to teach and empower other enslaved people.
- D. Risking punishment to fight back against Covey.
- E. Writing his Narrative to expose the truth to the world.

- 1. Whistleblowers exposing corruption even at personal risk. _____
- 2. Communities advocating for equal access to quality education. _____
- 3. Activists writing blogs, articles, or books to raise awareness about inequality. _____
- 4. Students discovering injustices through history or social studies classes. _____
- 5. Protesters standing up to oppressive systems despite dangers. _____

Short Response: Choose one of the pairings you made. Briefly explain how Douglass's fight connects to the modern issue. What lesson from Douglass's story still applies today?
