

## When the Hunters and the Lions Write History



We have been reading the *Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass Written by Himself*, and we have been discussing in class the extent to which his narration of his own life is a kind of rebellion against the institution that enslaved him. The introduction material to this autobiography alludes to an African proverb: "If the lions wrote the history of the hunt, the hunters would not seem so glorious and the lions would not be so mis-represented." Frederick Douglass and his writings are supposed to be represented by the lion in this proverb and his work is supposed to be seen as giving voice to the concerns of the hunted.

- Your next creative piece is based on this proverb and based on the literary element of point of view.

There are three parts to this assignment:

**Part One:** Narrate a story from your life and from your point of view. This story you tell should be one in which you were wronged and had no power or less power than someone else in the story who was "hunting" you. Make sure that this section is full of **sense impressions, descriptive details and figurative language** that suggests the feelings of the "hunted" without coming out and naming those feelings. (approximately 300-350 words – about 1 page double-spaced)

**Part Two:** Narrate the same story as above but this time from the other person's point of view, the person who had the power and was doing the "hunting." Make sure that this section is full of sense impressions, descriptive details and figurative

language that suggests the feelings of the "hunter" without coming out and naming those feelings. **This section should be remarkably different from part one.**  
(approximately 300-350 words -- – about 1 page double-spaced)

**Part Three:** Explain how the words you chose and the sense impressions you used and the descriptive details you included and the figurative language you crafted in each of these versions is **different** and how you were able to create **two different points of view** (hunted and hunter) about the same story. (about one paragraph).

DUE ON TURNITIN.COM – Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rubric -- When the Hunters and the Lions Write History**

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|------|--|----------------------|
| I.   | How well do you narrate a story from your life and from your point of view?  |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| II.  | How developed is the first section in terms of sense impressions, descriptive details and figurative language that suggests the feelings of the "hunted" without coming out and naming those feelings?   |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| III. | How well do you narrate the same story as above, but this time from the other person's point of view, the person who had the power and was doing the "hunting?"  |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| IV.  | How developed is this second section in terms of sense impressions, descriptive details and figurative language that suggests the feelings of the "hunter" without coming out and naming those feelings? |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| V.   | How different is the second section in terms of tone, point of view and word choice, even as the main plot stays the same?   |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| VI.  | How well were able to create two different points of view (hunted and hunter) about the same story?  |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |
| VII. | How well edited are the three sections?  |                      |
| Well | Somewhat Well  | Needs More Attention |