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ENG1121

Word Count: 806

Micro-Activity #4

In Frederick Douglass' speech, "What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?" he tells his audience that although the Fourth of July is an important day because that's the day the 13 colonies acquired freedom from England it is not an important day for him or for his people. His people having a darker skin color and no rights can't possibly share the same excitement or even happiness for that day when they themselves aren't free. They don't share the same rights or even power.

Quote #1: In the speech, "What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?", Douglass states,

There are seventy-two crimes in the State of Virginia, which, if committed by a black man, (no matter how ignorant he be,) subject him to the punishment of death; while only two of the same crimes will subject a white man to the like punishment.

Paraphrase: In other words, Frederick Douglass is trying to prove his point that the difference between a dark skinned person and a white colored person is nothing less but their skin color. Their skin color strays them away from acquiring the same equal rights. The punishment a black man gets from committing the same crime as a white colored man always ends up being more critical and harsh.

Respond: It is not fair that a black colored man pays more for the color of his skin than the actual crime he has committed while a white colored man revokes his punishment with the privilege that his skin color gives him. Frederick Douglass has pointed out that both skin colors don't have the same equal rights for something so small as just skin color.

Quote #2: In the speech "What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?", Douglass states, "For black men there are neither law, justice, humanity, nor religion."(pg.13)

Paraphrase: That is to say that, black men don't have any power or voice. Black men struggle to have any type of rights in any category of life whether it's in religion or justice.

Respond: Frederick Douglass argues that a black men struggle more than anyone can imagine yet they can't even have a fair trial in life. Time after time they are being pushed closer to the floor than to the sky where they can chase after their dreams or become better versions of themselves. I agree with this because it is absurd that a colored man has to fight for recognition and power for something that is out of their hands, which is their skin color.

Two moments where Douglass' writing strategies catch my attention

While reading Frederick Douglass' speech I noticed that he used many writing strategies to get his point across and that also caught my attention. Two writing strategies that he used are allusion and antithesis.

Quote 1: In the speech, "What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?", Douglass states,

Standing with God and the crushed and bleeding slave on this occasion, I will, in the name of humanity which is outraged, in the name of liberty which is fettered, in the name of the

constitution and the Bible, which are disregarded and trampled upon, dare to call in question and to denounce, with all the emphasis I can command, everything that serves to perpetuate slavery—the great sin and shame of America!

Explanation: Through the use of allusion, Douglass is able to bring up the constitution and the bible and how they are being questioned. They are being questioned because they are letting dark skin people being treated poorly. I found this effective because it does make you question like in what grounds do dark skin colored people have to be in order to have a voice and power? When are they going to have the respect they deserve?

Quote 2: In the speech "What to the Negro is the Fourth of July?", Douglass states,

You profess to believe “that, of one blood, God made all nations of men to dwell on the face of all the earth,” and hath commanded all men, everywhere to love one another; yet you notoriously hate, (and glory in your hatred,) all men whose skins are not colored like your own (pg 17).

Explanation: The writing strategy that Douglass uses is antithesis. Not only does it show how the American people contradict themselves but it also shows the two different ideas they have for people who don't share the same color skin as them. They say that they are a unit yet turn around and treat colored people poorly. How can you be a unit and still tear them down? Why can't you uplift them rather belittling them? This quote makes you realize that it is hard being part of a society that doesn't really count you as an important figure because of your skin color.

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Micro-activity #6

In the Dedicatory Letter, by English writer, Mary Wollstonecraft, she is advocating for the same treatment between women and men. She argues that it isn't fair that women are often pushed to the side watching men succeed meanwhile they're lacking education. She is also writing this letter so that Talleyrand understands that women deserve to have the same rights and opportunities as men. They should not be pushed to the side because of their sex. A woman can't measure up to a man if she is being neglected of her rights. Wollstonecraft wants the recipient of the letter to understand that men need women to be educated. That life will be simpler if they just treated women equally.

By my understanding of this letter, I would have to say that the discourse community that Wollstonecraft is a part of is the rights of women. The recipient does not appear to be a part of this discourse community. He seems to be outside of this discourse community and be part of another discourse community that is rights for men.

Quote 1: In the Dedicatory letter, Wollstonecraft says,

"Isn't that what you are doing when you *force* all women, by denying them civil and political rights, to remain walled in by their families and groping in the dark?"(pg 2)

Identify the writing strategy you see Wollstonecraft using:

In the Dedicatory Letter, Mary Wollstonecraft uses the writing strategy of a rhetorical question.

Explain why you find this useful, persuasive, or effective in some other way: I found this quote really useful because it is evident that Wollstonecraft is asking a rhetorical question in order to emphasize the importance of women's rights. Wollstonecraft is unstoppable when it comes to speaking her mind.

Quote 2: In the Dedicatory Letter, Wollstonecraft says,

"Let there be no coercion established in society—no laws that *force* people into this or that social role or situation. When that is achieved, the common law of gravity will hold sway and the sexes will fall into their proper places. "

Identify the writing strategy you see Wollstonecraft using:

Wollstonecraft uses the writing strategy, allusion.

Explain why you find this useful, persuasive, or effective in some other way:

I found this quote really effective because Wollstonecraft alludes to the common law of gravity created by scientist, Isaac Newton. Personally, it was such a great way for her to show that although women are expected to lack education, she is an educated woman. She can't stand the idea of women being rejected by society and being neglected of their own human rights.