



Name _____ Date _____

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass's legacy has left a significant mark on history. Douglass and his activism continue to inspire others to spark change and fight against injustice to this day.

Read the following quote from Douglass's "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" speech given on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, New York. On the lines below, respond to this quote. Thinking about the timing and name of this speech and Douglass's abolitionist mission, what hypocrisy is he pointing out? Why might Douglass have believed a more aggressive approach was needed?

"At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. O! had I the ability, and could I reach the nation's ear, I would, to-day, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke. For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced."



Name _____ Date _____

[illegible]