

**Frederick Douglass and Text Elements – Conflict and Inference**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Conflict can be defined as something that produces tension. Conflict can be between people, between a person and society, between a person and nature, or even between a person and him or her self. Below are three events from Frederick Douglass’s life that were likely to produce conflict. **Infer** why each event may have produced conflict and then describe the nature of the conflict as explained above. Use the Frederick Douglass biography on [mrnussbaum.com](http://mrnussbaum.com) or [mrn365.com](http://mrn365.com) as a reference.

Conflict 1	Nature of Conflict: Man vs _____
Douglass and others believed the US Constitution was an anti-slavery document ....	
Why did this produce conflict?	

Conflict 2	Nature of Conflict: Man vs _____
Douglass believed the primary cause of the Civil War was to liberate the slaves...	
Why did this produce conflict?	

Conflict 3	Nature of Conflict: Man vs _____
Mr. Freeman allowed Frederick to teach other slaves to read. Frederick taught over 40 slaves how to read passages from the New Testament.	
Why did this produce conflict?	

## Possible Answers

Conflict 1	Nature of Conflict: Man vs Man (Douglass v Garrison)
Douglass and others believed the US Constitution was an anti-slavery document ....	
Why did this produce conflict?	
This produced conflict because William Lloyd Garrison, another prominent abolitionist, believed the Constitution was a pro-slavery document. This caused a split in the abolitionist movement, which weakened it at a critical time.	

Conflict 2	Nature of Conflict: Man vs Society
Douglass believed the primary cause of the Civil War was to liberate the slaves...	
Why did this produce conflict?	
Not everyone thought the major cause of the Civil War was to liberate slaves. In fact, many believed the only purpose of the war was to re-unite the country and prevent it from separating into two. There were many people on the Union side that bristled at the idea that so much death and destruction could occur on account of freeing slaves.	

Conflict 3	Nature of Conflict: Man vs Society
Mr. Freeman allowed Frederick to teach other slaves to read. Frederick taught over 40 slaves how to read passages from the New Testament.	
Why did this produce conflict?	
For many southern slaveholders, Frederick's teachings were viewed upon as threatening. As long as slaves were kept illiterate, they would never read newspapers or write letters, thus keeping them ignorant of a life other than as a slave. By reading or writing, slaves might learn that there was a better life worth fighting or rebelling for.	