

# Annotate the Passage

In 1852, the influential African American Frederick Douglas was invited to give a speech in Rochester, New York on the Fourth of July. The excerpt below is taken from that speech. Annotate the passage. Use your own symbols to indicate (as applicable):

- The Main Idea
- Key words or ideas
- Important words or phrases
- Unfamiliar words
- Things you don't understand
- Things that surprise you
- Things you can connect with
- Things you know you need to remember



"Would you have me argue that man is entitled to liberty? That he is the rightful owner of his own body? You have already declared it. Must I argue the wrongfulness of slavery? Is that a question for republicans? Is it to be settled by the rules of logic and argumentation, as a matter beset with great difficulty, involving a doubtful application of the principle of justice, hard to understand? How should I look today in the presence of Americans, dividing and subdividing a discourse, to show that men have a natural right to freedom, speaking of it relatively and positively, negatively and affirmatively? To do so would be to make myself ridiculous, and to offer an insult to your understanding. There is not a man beneath the canopy of heaven who does not know that slavery is wrong for him."