

**Pillars of Africana Thought**  
**HI/PS 247**  
**First Round-Up Paper Assignment**  
**Fall Semester 2022**

Directions: Please write a coherent and well-organized essay of 4-5, double-spaced pages on ONE (1) of the prompts below. Be sure your reflection makes good use of specific examples from the texts and reveals your original analytical approach to the subject at hand. Additionally, you may cite in the method of your choice (i.e., MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). Essays are due on **Thursday, October 6 by 5:00 p.m.** Please submit your paper to Moodle.

And please let us know if there is anything we can do to help! We want you to succeed, flourish, and show what you've learned!

1. Freedom/liberation is a consistent theme throughout the readings. How have the authors conceptualized freedom? Furthermore, what do they argue are the conditions necessary for one to achieve liberation?
2. Baldwin, Douglass, Davis, and Jacobs all take great issue with the belief that slavery and systems of oppression, generally, are natural. How do they go about dismantling that argument?
3. In the "Editor's Preface" of *My Bondage and My Freedom*, Douglass states that one of the central purposes for his writing that text is to put "slavery on trial," an intent expressed implicitly also in both Jacobs's and Davis's texts. How did they all go about putting slavery on trial? What sort of "evidence" do they put forward in support of their position denouncing slavery?
4. In *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs asserts that "slavery is terrible for men; but it is far more terrible for women" (66, Dover Thrift edition). Write an essay that responds to Jacobs's observations considering her narrative and Douglass's *My Bondage and My Freedom*.