

Slave Resistance : SlveRes-US-MS

Essay Prompt:

How did enslaved people resist their enslavement and why is this historically significant?

Slave Resistance DBQ Essay

Did you know that when slavery was still happening, the slaves would do anything in their power to resist the orders of their owners? For example, Frederick Douglass even traded blows with his owner, in an act of resistance, and self defense. In the past, slaves did not rebel against their owners by normal means; for example, in 1739, The Stono Rebellion took place. A Rebellion is a group of people, in this case, slaves, who were tired of being enslaved, and decided to fight back. In 1831, The Nat Turner Rebellion took place, in which resulted in the deaths of 57 whites. Enslaved people resisted their enslavement by refusing to do work/ sabotaging crops, running away, fighting back, and Starting Rebellions. This is historically significant because it affected millions of people that were enslaved and this is still relevant today.

Firstly, How did enslaved people fight back against their enslavement and why is it historically significant? Enslaved people resisted their enslavement by faking illnesses, physically fighting back, and running away. In Document D, Paragraph 1, it states "I spent the whole week without the performance of a single stroke of work. I did this in retaliation." This quote shows that slaves would purposely not work in retaliation to their slavery, hoping to either frustrate their owners or make a change. One quote that supports this is in Document B, where it states "Ran away from the subscriber on the 5th instant." This shows that slaves would do anything just to not work or escape to somewhere they could be free.

Another historically significant way slaves resisted their enslavement is faking sickness. This way was decently effective, if the slaves were good enough at it, which some were. In Document C, it states "When she returned with some bacon and corn cake, I did not dare to eat much for fear that the rest of the family would mistrust that I was not sick. This evidence shows that slaves were willing to even starve themselves and deprive themselves of basic things a human should have, for example, water, food, the ability to walk or move, and much more. One quote that supports this is in Document C, where it says "(Just that moment, i was so hungry that i could have eaten the flesh of a dead horse.)" This evidence supports my answer because it shows and states that slaves would willingly starve themselves just to not work in retaliation to their enslavement.

Another historically significant way slaves resisted their enslavement is Nat Turner, who led one of the bloodiest rebellions ever, killing dozens of white people. According to the text, "Important Figures Who Endured Slavery", it states: "Nat Turner led one of the bloodiest slave rebellions, killing dozens of white people in his town." This evidence shows that Nat Turner wanted white people to feel how slaves felt when they were being taken from their homes, and then forced into slavery. One quote that supports this is <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/turners-revolt-nat-1831/> Where it states "While in jail awaiting trial, he spoke freely about the revolt." This evidence means that Nat Turner was not afraid to speak about the things he did, and he did not regret it because it was also done to him.

There are very many ways slaves resisted their enslavement, but why is this historically significant, and how is this topic relevant to today? One of the ways that enslaved people resisted is fighting back, both physically and mentally. What I mean by this is slaves would not only physically hit their owners, using their bodies to resist, but also would use their intelligence, to make their captors believe they were injured, or sick, in order to resist slavery by not doing any work. This topic matters, and is relevant to today because it was an extremely

historically significant time where African Americans were being enslaved, and it's not just important to the African Americans who are free today, but also every other race, because it's important to know the history of other races, just to see what their ancestors have gone through.

Score Details

Textual Evidence MS	0-2 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay incorporates only two documents, Document D and Document B, in supporting its argument, thus meeting the criteria for 1 point according to the rubric.</p>		
Writing Mechanics	0-1 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay demonstrates a good understanding of spelling, grammar, and punctuation, with minor mistakes that do not significantly affect clarity. Overall, conventions are well applied.</p>		
Historical Thinking Skill: Historical Significance	0-2 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay accurately identifies and explains the historical significance of the resistance of enslaved people, providing examples and explaining their impact. However, it lacks in-depth analysis on why this topic is worth remembering today or its significance in its own historical context. Therefore, only 1 point is awarded.</p>		
Historical Thinking Evidence: Contextualization	0-1 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay provides some historical context by mentioning specific events and figures related to slave resistance like the Stono Rebellion and Frederick Douglass. However, it lacks a broader setting or background information that highlights the social or cultural context of the period.</p>		
Outside Evidence	0-1 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay incorporates outside evidence through examples such as the Stono Rebellion and Nat Turner's Rebellion - events that were not included in the provided documents - strengthening the argument about various forms of resistance by the enslaved people.</p>		
Purpose	0-2 Points	2.00
<p>Grader Comment: The essay presents a clear argument in response to the prompt, uses multiple documents as evidence, and consistently connects the evidence back to the paper's argument, therefore 2 points are awarded.</p>		
Thesis	0-1 Points	1.00
<p>Grader Comment: The introduction paragraph presents a claim that answers the prompt by stating that enslaved people resisted their enslavement through various methods and demonstrating the historical significance of this resistance. This claim is defensible with textual evidence, thus satisfying the rubric's criteria.</p>		
Total Score		8.00