A.P. Language and Composition Summer Reading assignment

Student instructions: Read Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas, An American Slave
Written by himself by Frederick Douglas

Your Assignment

Part 1: Read this entire Narrative including the appendix (parody). The page total in the book I have is 106 pages. You may check one out from the library, purchase it (I highly recommend getting your own copy so you can annotate it), or access it as an electronic file on one of many sites. A simple Google search should bring it up. If you have trouble, you can try either of these two sites.

http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Douglass/Autobiography/

Take notes on it for use in a class discussion when we return to school. Bring your book and the essay with you to class on the first day of school.

Part 2: During the summer, research and find out as much as you can about the Slave Narrative Literary Genre. Write a one page double spaced Essay (topics listed below) including the information you found. Cite your sources according to MLA formatting and do not plagiarize. More than one source is required. Use the following web sites for information on MLA formatting and Plagiarism if you are unsure of the correct procedures.

Avoiding Plagiarism - http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/
MLA format and style guide - http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Your essay should deal with any of the following topics. Choose one and focus.

- Describe the slave narrative, and discuss its importance in the abolitionist movement.
- Describe the slave narrative, and discuss its significance as a resource for historical study.
- Describe and evaluate the slave narrative as a work of literature.
- Examine the slave narrative in the context of political controversy, as an argument for abolition.
- Describe the slave narrative, and explore the theme of self-actualization within the slave narrative.
- Describe the slave narrative, and explore the theme of spiritual freedom within the slave narrative.

Be prepared to hand in your essay, discuss the narrative, and take a test on the reading when you return to class this fall.