

## Dickinson & Slavery seminar Biographical Essay TIMELINE

### General Reminder

Full details on this assignment with links to supporting resources are available at the course site: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/seminar-slavery/writing-assignments/biographical-essay/>

### By Friday, September 20, 2019 (5pm)

Send Prof. Pinsker an email identifying your subject and explaining why you chose him or her. Make sure to address how the subject might offer a gateway for understanding insights about the rise or fall or memory of American slavery. All subjects should be listed at the Site Index for the Dickinson & Slavery project, or should have a relevant connection to Dickinson.

### By Friday, September 27, 2019

Try to have a draft opening paragraph that you can email to Prof. Pinsker for comments. The opening should probably begin with a striking quotation or powerful narrative vignette and then step back to provide an overview of the subject and a compelling thesis statement about his or her significance to the study of American slavery. Look at chapters from the book *Slavery and the University* (2019) for models of academic openings --but remember that you only will have 4 to 6 pages (instead of 15 to 20 pages) so keep your draft opening concise --maybe a paragraph or two at most. And please take note that in order to have a decent draft opening ready for sharing, you will need to have made a good start at both primary and secondary source research. That kind of research will probably take several hours, both online and at the library. You don't need to conduct archival research for this kind of project --but you can if you want to try. However, work in the college archives is specialized and will take several more hours, so budget your time accordingly.

### Between Monday, September 30 and Friday, October 4, 2019

Share a draft of your essay with your peer review group. The sooner you share during this final week (and the more you share) the better, but no matter what, try to force yourself to share something before Friday's deadline even if it's incomplete and not your best work. Peer reviewers should not try to correct mistakes (or to spend time offering praise), but just focus on suggesting a couple of new ideas for further research or for addressing areas of potential confusion to a general reader. Don't email any review comments after noon on Friday, October 4. You will receive your peer review assignments over email before 9/30. Also, try to carve out the time during this week to take a draft of your biographical essay to the Writing Center.

### By Friday, October 4, 2019 at 5pm

Send Prof. Pinsker your biographical essay by email as a Word document or PDF attachment. Make sure to include a title page (with descriptive title), 4 to 6 pages of typed, double-spaced text, Chicago-style footnotes (at the bottom of each page), and a concluding "Sources" section that briefly describes the array of sources available on your subject (make sure to identify primary sources first and then describe a few relevant secondary sources). Also, remember that at least one of your secondary sources must be from a chapter in the *Slavery and the University* (2019) collection. Finally, if you are going to miss the 10/4 deadline, make sure to email Prof. Pinsker and explain your situation. Late papers will be penalized up to 5 points per day.

