

Before You Submit

Use this checklist in class or at home. It is a reference, not a separate submission. Make corrections in your existing shared Word file.

Argument and evidence

- ☐ My thesis explains how and to what extent people exercised agency.
- ☐ Jacobs accounts for roughly two-thirds to three-quarters of the analysis: four passages across all four reading blocks, three forms of agency, and a complicating example.
- ☐ I analyze two Wright-report details, including the action on p. 134 and the ruling's limit on p. 144.
- ☐ I use a brief Northup OR Douglass comparison (one or two details) to sharpen my Jacobs analysis. California is optional.
- ☐ I connect a Jacobs passage to relevant historical context.
- ☐ I explain similarities and differences, rather than simply listing events.

Historical care

- ☐ I distinguish agency, autonomy, and legal freedom.
- ☐ I treat 1806 as an earlier precedent and keep Virginia and California distinct.
- ☐ I do not invent a tribal affiliation, a private motive, or resistance that a statute alone cannot prove.
- ☐ I explain what the court report can reveal and how it differs from Jacobs's autobiography.

Citations and format

- ☐ Every quotation, paraphrase, and source-based claim has an accurate Chicago footnote.
- ☐ My bibliography includes the works I actually used; I checked quotations against sources.
- ☐ I used real printed page numbers, chapter titles/numbers, or statute sections.
- ☐ Essay text fills 4-5 pages: 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, one-inch margins. Footnotes, bibliography, planning, and self-assessment are outside the page count.

Shared Word file and work history

- ☐ Essay planning, class/home drafting, and revision remain in one Word online file shared with Mr. Cutler with editing access.
- ☐ I used December 14 peer feedback to revise and updated the four-category self-assessment after the bibliography.
- ☐ I understand Mr. Cutler will review checkpoints and available version history.
- ☐ I wrote and revised my own work without AI writing/editing tools or paraphrasers. Basic spell-check is permitted.

Final submission: Wednesday, December 16, 2026, by 3:25 p.m.

Submit the same Word link on Canvas, verify editing access, and leave sharing enabled. Do not submit only a PDF or replace the file with a new upload.

[Return to the full assignment and rubric](#) | [Evidence planner and citation models](#)