

# Who dares to compare essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Education has always been a part of our way of life since the beginning of time. Not every person is the same; hence the reason everyone learns differently. It all begins at childhood of course; from that parent, parent-like figure or school teacher. However, at a point in one's life that sense of independence takes over and one finds his or her will to learn more and in their own way. Frederick Douglass and Richard Rodriguez are two great examples of people whose process of learning impacted their lives from childhood to adulthood. Who dares to compare the two?

Between these two great men are some similarities even though they grew up in different times and being minorities. From reading the two reading pieces one could focus on how Douglass and Rodriguez's upbringing, learning methods and their lives were affected by education. From early ages both Douglass and Rodriguez grew up with cultural struggles of being minorities in the United States. In Rodriguez's book *Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez* he, " describes his struggles of growing up biculturally - feeling alienated from his Spanish-speaking parents yet not wholly comfortable in the dominant culture of the United States. Douglass was a slave and during those times the education of a slave was frowned upon. Even though in the beginning Douglass states, " My mistress, who had kindly commenced to instruct me..." Within the struggles both men had no support in their learning early on. Rodriguez speaks of his parents by saying, " Never did I see either of them read [and] entire book. Nor did see them read for pleasure. Their reading consisted of work manuals, prayer books. Newspapers, recipes..." Seeing this could make a person wonder what the real purpose of reading is.

Rodriguez goes on to say, "... at home I would hear my mother wondering, (What do you see in your books? " Now in Douglass' case his mistress began teaching but things changed very quickly. His mistress was instructed by her husband not to teach the slaves this is proven by Douglass stating, "incompliance with the advice and direction of her husband, not only ceased to instruct, but had set her face against my being instructed by any one else. " Even though the support system wasn't there that didn't deter either of these men from pursuing an education.

The fire was lit as some would say and could be put out; for the plan has been set and the learning process began. Douglass states, " The plan which I adopted, and the one by which I was most successful, was that of making friends of all the little white boys whom I met in the street. As many as I could I converted into teachers. " In this day and time one could say, " Wow" for the simple fact, who would've thought of a young slave coming up with a smart but devious plan as he did. Rodriguez too had teachers but not in the same aspect as Douglass.

From the first day of school Rodriguez paid attention the signs hanging in the classrooms, which sparked an interest to him. One of the signs read, " READ TO LEARN," which caused him to wonder, " What was the connection between reading and learning? " as Rodriguez states. Rodriguez didn't like the isolated reading that was required in his courses. Rodriguez goes on to say, " To console myself for the loneliness I'd feel when I read, I tried reading in a very soft voice. " Now is remedial reading a good or bad thing?

It seems that Rodriguez devised his plan in remedial class which is not bad at all. After listening but not really listening to the nun in class if you can fathom that; Rodriguez states, " I was thinking then another consequence of literacy, one I was too shy to admit but nonetheless trusted. Books were going to make me [educated]. " Both Douglass and Rodriguez proceeded to grasp the reading concept and instantly moved passed the elementary of it all. Over the years a young man continues to learn by constantly trying to find ways to better himself.

Douglass wrote that he was about twelve years old when he came across a book entitled " The Columbian Orator" which was an inspiring book for him. Now one over time may come across a book or series of books that stand out. Rodriguez read many of books throughout his life which he states, " My habit of reading made me a confident speaker and writer of English. " Reading makes the mind wonder at times and sometimes causes deep concentration. It is apparent that both these men took a great pride in learning to read and write.

Again Douglass was smart about learning to write by using the same plan he used in learning to read. Finally Douglass states, " Thus, after a long, tedious effort for years, I finally succeeded in learning how to read and write. " There is only so much that could be quoted from these two but history or shall I say His-Story tells the tale. In conclusion, Frederick Douglass and Richard Rodriguez were born in two different times but there is a struggle within one's self to learn or not. I dare ask again. " Who dares to compare? Looking back at how they both grew up, how they established their method madness and how all of these things molded their lives accordingly. I want to leave

you with this; just because you are educated doesn't mean you didn't have to struggle to get the education you have. Douglass, Frederick. "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave." Blackboard Wayland Baptist University. Web. 6 Apr. 2011. Rodriguez, Richard. "The Lonely, Good Company of Books." Blackboard Wayland Baptist University. Web. 6 Apr. 2011