

Assessment Answer Sheet

The following checklist can be used to assess the students' writing assignment from the Assessment.

	Excellent Answered	Adequately Answered	Poorly Answered	Not Answered
Assessment Question: In a brief essay, provide:				
Part A. An Overview of Thomas Day's Life				
When and where was he born? <i>Thomas Day was born in 1801 in Dinwiddie County, Virginia.</i>				
When and where did he die? <i>It is thought that Day died in 1861, He lived in Milton, North Carolina, for three decades, but it is not clear where he died.</i>				
What were some of Day's professional and artistic accomplishments? <i>a): He was one of the most distinguished furniture makers of the antebellum period.</i> <i>b): His furniture making shop was the largest in North Carolina.</i> <i>c): He owned, lived and worked in the Union Tavern one of the most significant examples of Federal architecture in the region.</i>				
Who were significant family members? <i>His father, John Day, was a free black and skilled cabinet maker. Day's three children were educated at Wesleyan Academy in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, a Methodist school known to have an anti-slavery philosophy.</i>				

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<p>What were some of his political ties and what do they tell us about his political views?</p> <p><i>In 1835, despite the risks, Day secretly attended the Fifth Annual Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Colour in the United States in Philadelphia. This was an abolitionist society which would have been viewed as criminal in the south. While Day owned slaves, it is thought that he did so in order to protect them and to make it seem that he accepted slavery as an institution.</i></p>				
<p>Overall, why was Thomas Day a significant historical figure?</p> <p><i>His artistic accomplishments would be impressive for any man, but because Day was a free African American who lived during the slavery era in the south, his achievements are especially noteworthy.</i></p>				
<p>Part B: At least one example of how he crafted freedom in three categories</p>				
<p>Example of how Day crafted freedom for himself:</p> <p><i>Through artistic and creative expression, Day could "feel free" and demonstrate his excellence in a society that deemed he and other free blacks second-class citizens.</i></p>				
<p>Example of how Day crafted freedom for his family members:</p> <p><i>a): He used his clients to aid him by signing a petition to the state legislature of North Carolina, which asked that his wife be allowed to move to North Carolina from Virginia, even though there was a law prohibiting free black migration into North Carolina. Permission was granted.</i></p> <p><i>b): He used money gained from his successful Southern business to send</i></p>				

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<p><i>his children to Wesleyan Academy an abolitionist-led preparatory school in the North. An education could enhance their opportunities as well as inculcate them with anti-slavery ideas.</i></p> <p><i>c): He trained his sons in the cabinetmaking craft so that they could always have a skill with which to earn a living.</i></p>				
<p>Example of how Day crafted freedom <i>for others of his race</i>:</p> <p><i>a): Day crafted freedom through political resistance to slavery that was "underground." It took the form of attending anti-slavery meetings; having strong associations with anti-slavery activists in the north; and by sending his children to be educated by abolitionists.</i></p> <p><i>b): He crafted freedom by being a role model American, by having a successful business and living a principled, Christian life.</i></p>				