

## Persuasive Writing

This activity accompanies chapter 5 from *Up From Slavery* by Booker T. Washington, record number 4882.

**Activity Title:** Persuasive Writing

**Description:** The students will write a persuasive paper supporting or refuting Washington's opinion about education.

**Subject:** Social Studies and Reading/Language Arts

**Skill:** Persuasive Writing

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will write a persuasive argument paper.

**Materials:**

- *Up From Slavery*, chapter 5, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Pencil and paper

**Procedures:**

Read the fifth chapter of the book with the students, or have them read it on their own. The fifth chapter of the book goes into more detail about Reconstruction and educating freed slaves. Have your students write a persuasive paper supporting or refuting Washington's opinion about education. He suggests in this chapter that schooling that doesn't focus on industry creates men and women who are less independent. Washington believed that when their material desires outpace their means, a sense of entitlement leads people into paths of self-destruction.

**Activity Extension:**

Have the students who agreed with Washington form a group and those who disagreed form a group. Have a class debate, using the information from the student's papers.

