



Planning Your Event: Reading Frederick Douglass

Step 1: Choose a location. A local event or commemoration is an ideal setting, but any number of places would make for a good reading: at the public library, during a 4th of July family barbecue, before the local fireworks display, or at microphones set up on the steps of town hall. You could also work with a private group and use the speech as your book club's monthly read, for example.

Step 2: Come prepared. Review the two lengths of the speech provided (abridged or full text) to decide which to read. Make copies for readers and audience members, or direct them to the online version. Other event considerations:

- Shade and water to ease the summer heat
- Mic and speaker system if you expect a large crowd
- Accessibility tools, such as wheelchair ramps and seating
- A point person to organize on site and make last-minute decisions
- A host to welcome community members and introduce the event
- A discussion facilitator, such as a local teacher
- Permits for some locations, such as a town square

Step 3: Food and drink. People talk more freely and happily if they can have something to eat and drink. If the event is public, oftentimes a local market (including the supermarket) is willing to donate cookies or fruit and lemonade.

Step 4: Draw a crowd. Invite locally well-known persons to introduce the event or start off the reading. Collaborate with other organizations so that you will have more attendees, more resources, and more publicity. (Remember—consider if you will need a permit and/or amplification.)

HK's *Reading Frederick Douglass* is adapted from resources developed by [Mass Humanities](#).