Frederick Douglass Day of Service:
Transcribe-a-Thon of Materials by 19th-Century Black Feminist, Anna Julia Cooper

Friday, February 14

Live broadcasts viewable on the Douglass Day YouTube channel

Noon-12:30 pm - Live broadcast
- Welcome & introductions
- Sing “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (lyrics)
- Overview for the Douglass Day 2020 program
- Speakers on Douglass and Cooper

12:30 to 1:00 pm - Local activity (live stream intermission)
- Transcribing continues
- Try the “CCP Frederick Douglas Celebration” Spotify playlist!
- Sample some birthday cake!

1:00 to 1:30 pm - Live broadcast
- Sing “Happy birthday”
- Speakers on Cooper
- Honoring Dunbar High School
- Dunbar Student Poetry Readings
- Speaker on Cooper and Alpha Kappa Alpha

1:30 to 2:45 pm - Local activity (live stream intermission)
- Transcribing continues
- Try the “CCP Frederick Douglas Celebration” Spotify playlist!
- Sample some birthday cake!

2:45 to 3:00 pm - Closing Reflections

Use social media to ask questions, share inspirational passages, photos, or comments about Black history preservation in action!

Twitter = @DouglassDayorg + @CCP_org + use #DouglassDay and #AnnaJuliaCooper

Instagram = Douglass Day / @DouglassDayorg

YouTube = subscribe to Douglass Day channel

Douglass Day 2020 is presented by The Colored Conventions Project, the Anna Julia Cooper Digital Project, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, the Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities, and the Penn State University Libraries, Penn State’s Center for Humanities and Information, and the Penn State College of the Liberal Arts and an American Studies Association Community Partnership Grant. The transcribe-a-thon is made possible by training and generosity of the Zooniverse non-profit organization. Local support comes from Syracuse University Humanities Center, Syracuse University Libraries, and the Departments of African American Studies, English, History, Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition.
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”
By James Weldon Johnson (Lyrics abridged)

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,
where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world,
we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

FAQs for Transcribing

Q: Do I need to sign up for a “zooniverse” account?
A: No, but you can bookmark favorite material and be acknowledged for your work if you register.

Q: Where do I begin?
A: Click on a "workflow" (category) that interests you. Or click "classify" for a randomly chosen item. Follow the prompts to describe what you see. (e.g., text? image? both?) Click on various tutorials, help text, field guides and other 'zooniverse' tool buttons for additional tips as you go.

Q: What if I get something wrong?
A: Take your best guess, transcribing what you see. Researchers will compare input from multiple transcriptionists.

Q: Do I have to copy exact formatting?
A: No, but do keep lines and paragraphs with each other, in a logical reading order.

Q: How should I handle errors in the material?
A: Transcribe all (mis)spellings, use of punctuation, letter case, etc. as viewed. Use screen tools to note other anomalies like crossed-out text, insertions, etc.

Q: What if I don't want or have time to transcribe the project that appears on my screen?
A: Hitting "refresh" gives you a new option within the workflow--or return to the home page. There is no 'save draft' function, so only select a piece you can complete in one sitting.

A note on race, language, & Native/Indigenous peoples...

In Cooper’s “Woman vs. the Indian” speech, she references a number of social groups using certain racial terms that were common in the United States during the 1890s but are no longer appropriate (e.g., today you might see Black (capitalized), African American, Native American, Indigenous, and address Native peoples by their specific community or nation).

Additionally, we acknowledge that every Douglass Day event is being held on unceded lands of Indigenous peoples in North America. Douglass Day offers an important opportunity to explicitly recognize the histories of anti-Indigenous racism (including by Frederick Douglass), oppression, and genocide. At Syracuse University, we acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee, the Indigenous peoples on whose lands we are now on, and we invite all Douglass Day participants to reflect on how we might work in coalition to resist the interconnected legacies of slavery and settler colonialism.