

## **W.E.B. DuBois/Writing Assignments**

English Composition I

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### **Pre-reading: In-class reflection**

Reflect on some possible interpretations of the title, "The Souls of Black Folk."

1. What impression does reading this particular title have on you?
2. Why might DuBois be compelled to write a book on this subject? (All theories are welcome.)

### **Journal writing**

Part I: This week, you will be reading W.E.B. DuBois's "Of Spiritual Strivings" (1903). Some of the language/phrasings/images may not be familiar to you. Jot down those challenges.

Before Reading: Consider how others perceive you. Sometimes this perception lifts us up; sometimes, it does not. W.E.B. DuBois centers on how he felt a "double-consciousness" and "a veil"--in other words, societal barriers because of his race.

While Reading: Take notes about especially poignant passages. What words/images stand out for you? Why? What passages might be challenging? Why? What are two passages that really stay with you? Why? What conflicts are being discussed? How do you interpret their cause and effect relationship?

Part II: For the Journal: Create two well-crafted responses to the reading. Select any aspect of the reading. All paragraphs should be at least 150 words.

- State a central idea that is the paragraph's focus. Underline this central idea.
- Highlight in yellow the evidence provided for this central claim.
- Highlight in green the explanation and comment on this evidence.

### **At-home writing assignment**

Word Count: 600-800 words

Format: MLA style, Times Roman, 12 pt.

Required Reading: W.E.B. Du Bois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings"

In the first paragraph, explore how a certain word or phrase describes how you view yourself. Include examples.

In the second paragraph, explore how a certain word or phrase describes how others (family, friends, or strangers) view you. Include examples.

In the third paragraph, explore a comparison and contrast between paragraphs one and two. How do you account for the differences in descriptions and definitions of your identity? Based on the previous paragraphs, how do you define "identity"?