**Genius of Freedom: The Douglass Monument**

**Worksheet A: Statue Analysis Answer Key**

Look carefully at the following image of the statue of Frederick Douglass from the **Genius of Freedom Exhibit: The Douglass Monument.**



Now consider this image of Abraham Lincoln from The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (<http://livinglincoln.web.unc.edu/2015/04/17/the-lincoln-memorial-how-it-stands-today/>)



With your partner, discuss the following questions. Jot down some notes on your analysis to be ready to share with the class:

1. What physical similarities do you see between the two monuments?
   1. *The hands are prominent in both statues but Lincoln is resting his hands on the edge of his chair. Douglass is using his hands as if he is actively talking to an audience.*
      1. *In fact, the Douglass statue depicts Douglass delivering a speech on the passage of the 15th Amendment giving blacks the right to vote (*[*http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2014/09/blacks\_in\_western\_art\_with\_frederick\_douglass\_statue\_blacks\_get\_their\_say.html*](http://www.theroot.com/articles/history/2014/09/blacks_in_western_art_with_frederick_douglass_statue_blacks_get_their_say.html) *).*
   2. *Both men have an expression of being lost in thought.*
   3. *The position of both statues commands the audience to look up at each man.*
   4. *Both men are dressed in formal attire, clothing you might expect to see on prominent citizens of the day.*
   5. *Both statues are full body statues (rather than just a bust). Both men are depicted in detail, including hair and facial expression.*
   6. *Both men have one foot in front of the other as if gesturing toward the audience.*
2. What physical differences do you see between the two monuments?
   1. *Lincoln is sitting while Douglass is standing. Lincoln’s stance is more passive. Douglass is more active.*
   2. *Lincoln is not actively engaged with the audience. His hands rest on his chair. You might have the sense that you walked in on him while he is deep in thought. Douglass is gesturing out to the audience with a sense of active engagement, as if he is trying to make a point or persuade the audience.*
   3. *Douglass’ gaze seems to stare out actively toward an audience. Lincoln seems to be more self-reflective as if he was having a private moment.*
3. What three adjectives would you use to describe your reaction to The Douglass Monument? Why did you pick those words?
   1. *Students will have a variety of responses to this prompt. Some might include powerful, persuasive, engaging, thoughtful, engaged, requesting, outreaching. Ask the students to supply evidence to support their choice of adjective.*
4. What three adjectives would you use to describe your reaction to the Lincoln Memorial? Why did you pick those words?
   1. *Similar to #4, students will have a variety of responses, potentially including reflective, thoughtful, confident, powerful.*
5. Pretend you are the sculptor for The Douglass Monument. Pick one specific aspect/gesture/attribute of the monument. Why did you choose to depict Douglass in that manner?
   1. *Douglass led a life of active engagement. He was an agent on behalf of many advancements for enslaved and eventually freed Americans. But his stance also conveys a sense request/persuasion for the audience, as if his work was not yet complete.*
6. Pretend you are the sculptor for the Lincoln Memorial. Pick one specific aspect/gesture/attribute of the monument. Why did you choose to depict Lincoln in that manner?
   1. *Lincoln died just as his vision for a unified country was becoming reality. The statue conveys his power and achievement, but with a reflexive sense as if Lincoln is contemplating rather than gloating.*