HISTORY 10
WRITING ASSIGNMENT I
THE "PECULIAR INSTITUTION": SLAVES TELL THEIR OWN STORY

Using the information provided in the document packet, The Imperial Slave Economy in chapter 3 of your text as well as chapter 12, construct a three to five page essay that explains how slaves themselves viewed the institution of slavery.

The document packet: The Peculiar Institution: Slaves Tell Their Own Story is your primary source evidence while your text provides you with your secondary source of evidence.

Describe the methods used to cope with their condition, ease their burden, and/or change their situation. Include examples from the document packet to support your points. Discuss what you think your survival strategy would have been if you were a slave in the 19th century American south. Conclude your essay by including evidence that was new to you, learned for the first time, or information that impressed or moved you in some way. Your conclusion should be supported with citations from the documents. Make sure you read chapters 3 and 12 in your text to supplement this material and provide you with a more general historical view of slavery in the United States.

Your essay should reflect the following structure:

- Introduce the Issue, include the point of view of white southerners
    - Use information you learned from chapters 3 & 12
- Address the central question and examine the evidence
- Discuss your strategy as a slave
- Conclude your essay by answering the central question using evidence to support your conclusion. Include the information that you learned for the first time or that impressed you as reader in the 21st century.
- Make sure you use quotation marks when including direct citations from the reading.
- If paraphrasing any other person's words, it is important to acknowledge this; for example, 'according to', 'as stated by …' etc.