

# VATE LESSON PLAN

“Of the Meaning of Progress” by W.E.B. Du Bois from The Souls of Black Folk  
<http://www.bartleby.com/114/4.html>

Before you read “Of the Meaning of Progress” which Du Bois wrote in 1904, consider and paraphrase what Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote in the Supreme Court ‘s opinion in **Brown v. Board of Education**, 347 U. S. 483 (1954) (USSC+) <http://www.nationalcenter.org/brown.html>

“An addition reason for the inconclusive nature of the [Fourteenth] Amendment’s history with respect to segregated schools is the status of public education at that [1868] time. In the South, the movement toward free common schools, supported by general taxation, had not yet taken hold. Education of white children was largely in the hands of private groups. Education of Negroes was almost nonexistent, and practically all of the race was illiterate. In fact, any education of Negroes was forbidden by law in some states. Today [1954], in contrast, many Negroes have achieved outstanding success in the arts and sciences, as well as in the business and professional world” ”The curriculum was rudimentary; ungraded schools were common in rural areas; the school term was but three months a year in many states, and compulsory school attendance was virtually unknown. ”

<b>Paraphrase</b> Justice Warren’s ideas about the state of schools for Blacks in 1868.
<b>Paraphrase</b> Justice Warren’s ideas about the state of schools for Blacks in 1954.

Before you read “Of the Meaning of Progress” by Du Bois discuss and define *progress*.

<i>progress</i>	
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As you read “Of the Meaning of Progress” which Du Bois wrote in 1904, keep in mind that the doctrine of “**separate but equal**” was announced in **1896** by the Court in Plessy v Ferguson, 163 U. S. 537.

As you read “Of the Meaning of Progress” by Du Bois, record Du Bois’ ideas and your own considerations in the jot chart below.

<b>Understanding Du Bois's ideas</b>		
<b>Idea</b>	<b>Du Bois' words</b>	<b>My thoughts</b>
The importance of education		
The conditions of schools in Tennessee		
His students' expectations		
His students' progress		
Progress of education in Tennessee		
Reader's choice <hr/>		

After you have read "Of the Meaning of Progress" by Du Bois, read Justice Warren's Supreme Court opinion in the Brown case and consider Du Bois' reaction to it. Discuss with classmates.

After you have read "Of the Meaning of Progress" by Du Bois and the Warren opinion in the Brown case, find a current article (written after January 2000) that addresses the issue of equal access to education. Read it and compare it to what Du Bois wrote a century ago and Warren wrote 50 years ago.

My article \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Comparison over time</b>			
	Du Bois 1904	Warren 1954	_____ 20__
Current state of education			
Progress toward equal access to education			
Most powerful quotation			
Writing style			
Reader's choice _____			