

Several ways to use this lesson:

- print the first page and post the quotes for students to consider
- have students choose a quote they like and write about it
- allow students to use the essay prompt (second page) to write about the quote of their choice
- distribute the pages, each with a quote and the essay prompts, randomly throughout the class
- assign a quote every day to the whole class

Black History Month- Quotes

- Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face. Carol Mosley-Braun
- Freedom is never given; it is won. A Philip Randolph
- Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly. Langston Hughes
- I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying. Michael Jordan
- I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody. Bill Cosby
- I don't make history. I catch fly balls. Willie Mays
- I feel that the most important requirement in success is learning to overcome failure. You must learn to tolerate it, but never accept it. Reggie Jackson
- If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the responsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to salve their conscience by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence. Mary McLeod Bethune
- If you have no confidence in yourself, you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you have started.- Marcus Garvey
- In all our deeds, the proper value and respect for time determines success or failure. Malcolm X
- Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Life is short, and it's up to you to make it sweet. Sadie Delaney
- In politics, an organized minority is a political majority Jesse Jackson
- My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging. Hank Aaron
- People pay for what they do, and still more for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply; by the lives they lead. James Baldwin
- Racism is not an excuse to not do the best you can. Arthur Ashe
- Success doesn't come to you...you go to it. Marva Collins
- Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed. Booker T. Washington
- The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself—the invisible, inevitable battles inside all of us—that's where it's at. Jesse Owens
- The man who has no imagination has no wings. Muhammad **Ali**
- The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time. Jackie Robinson
- Truth is powerful and it prevails. Sojourner Truth
- We must use the weapon of love, We must have compassion and understanding for those who hate us. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice. Carter Woodson
- When I found I had crossed that line, [on her first escape from slavery, 1845] I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything. Harriet Tubman
- Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong. Ella Fitzgerald
- Without courage, you can't practice any of the other virtues consistently. Maya Angelou
- You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man. Frederick Douglass
- You're either part of the solution or part of the problem. Eldridge Cleaver

