

## Writing Runaway Slave Diary Entries

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

In two to three pages, write a series of historical fiction runaway slave diary entries. Your diary entries should be based on: 1) the runaway slave ads that you reviewed; 2) the excerpt of the narrative of Henry "Box" Brown; and 3) the overview of the general structure of runaway slave narratives (incorporating the precipitating event, the path of escape, what happened along the way, and the result). You may also wish to review overviews of the experiences of Harriet Jacobs for more examples of fugitive slave experiences. Your diary entries should:

- Describe several days in the life of an enslaved youth in the antebellum South. Use an actual slave advertisement or group of advertisements as a stimulus for this "historical fiction" exercise.
- Incorporate the culture, values, landscape, and language of the time in one's "historical fiction" diary, making sure the account is historically accurate.
- Express empathy for the plight of the enslaved individual.
- Incorporate these four elements of runaway slave narratives: the precipitating event; the path of escape; what happened along the path of escape; and the result.