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## **The Literary Corner: Introduction to Afro-American Essays with Sarah Fabio and Thomas Schick (side a)**

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The Afro American Essay as I see it was not an essay that dealt largely uh with uh the with esoteric subjects or with subjects of individuality uh uh but rather that dealt with subjects that were very very critical to the uh the current status at any point in time, of the Afro American community. Dr. Thomas Schick stating the purpose of essays written by Afro Americans. This is the literary corner by writers of the world a series of analyses and interpretations of black world literature. Dr. Schick is a historian and is our guest analyst from the University of Wisconsin Madison's department of Afro American studies. Today, he and our regular analyst, Professor Sarah Fabio also of the University of Wisconsin Madison's department of Afro American studies will discuss the Afro American essay and now Dr. Thomas Schick.

*Thomas Schick*: The experience of, uh, of writing in the uh in the English language in the United States uh uh on the part of Afro Americans, comes out of a very uh particular and important uh aspect of that experience uh what I mean by this is that uh although up until the Civil War the overwhelming majority of Afro Americans were slaves there was uh from uh the colonial period time, a small segment of that population that had secured their freedom. Uh Either uh through personal manumission or uh through the State abolition of slavery in the north that occurred after the American Revolutionary War. And so there was that uh population that uh Professor John Hope Franklin called uh the quasi-free Negro, uh meaning uh those individuals who were not technically slaves but were faced with the burden of race uh as uh defined in the United States.



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