

Read the first two paragraphs of Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise Speech" from "Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board of Directors and Citizens" to "starting a dairy farm or truck garden."

1. Which details in the first paragraph establish the audience and setting of Washington's speech?
2. What does Washington's opening sentence suggest about the subject of his speech?
3. How does the subject of the speech clarify the meaning of "this section" and "this element" (par. 1)?
4. What claim does Washington make about "our population" (par. 1) in the second sentence? What does this claim suggest about Washington's point of view?
5. How does the word "my" in the phrase "masses of my race" (par. 1) develop Washington's point of view?
6. What will "cement the friendship of the two races" (par. 1)? How does this statement further develop Washington's claim about what is necessary for the South to "reach the highest success" (par. 1)?
7. What words and phrases clarify the meaning of "dawn of our freedom" in this context?

8. To what “opportunity” does Washington refer in the phrase “the opportunity here afforded” (par. 2)? How does this phrase develop his point of view?

9. How does the idea of “industrial progress” (par. 2) build upon ideas introduced in paragraph 1?

10. To whom does the phrase “we began at the top” (par. 2) refer? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

11. How does Washington explain the meaning of the phrase “we began at the top instead of at the bottom” (par. 2)?

12. What might the phrase “ignorant and inexperienced” suggest about Washington’s opinion of “beg[inning] at the top instead of at the bottom” (par. 2)?