BTWash Lesson 18 – Discussion/Study Questions

Read paragraphs 6-7 of Booker T. Washington's "Atlanta Compromise Speech" from "There is no defense or security for any" to "retarding every effort to advance the body politic."

- 1. How does the first sentence in paragraph 6 further refine an idea introduced in paragraphs 3–5?
- 2. What does Washington believe should happen to the "efforts ... to curtail the fullest growth of the Negro" (par. 6)?
- 3. Which words or phrases clarify the meaning of *curtail*?
- 4. What is the result of investing "[e]ffort or means" (par. 6)?
- 5. How does the phrase "will pay a thousand per cent interest" (par. 6) advance Washington's purpose?
- 6. What relationship does Washington develop between the "Oppressor" and the "oppressed" (par. 6)?
- 7. How does this allusion further develop Washington's point of view?
- 8. How does the image of "[n]early sixteen millions of hands" (par. 7) further develop Washington's point of view?

- 9. What is the effect of Washington's repetition of the phrase "one-third" (par. 1) in paragraph 7?
- 10. What words or phrases clarify the meaning of *constitute* in this context?
- 11. What is the impact of Washington's use of rhetoric in the final sentence of paragraph 7?