

Feb. 6, 1863

Dear Mr. Shaw,

As a very influential person in politics, as well as the creator of the "North Star" newspaper, I am Frederick Douglass. I am writing you as a intelligent man, negro of color, but with no differences as to yourself. I shall voice to you my opinion in why you should be colonel of the 54th amendment.

First off, living life as a negro is not the same as living as a man. By becoming colonel you will allow us blacks to make a way for ourselves and our people. By allowing us to work, you have given us the opportunity to work as men. You would have given us one step closer to complete freedom, as all men should have.

Most importantly, you would allow us to prove our selves to those who believe we are merely nothing and worthless. It is important that you and only you become the colonel of the 54th amendment. You would make a change by allowing us to make a difference. We (negros) would be able to prove ourselves, not just as men of color, but as men period. Mr. Shaw, you would be opening the doors of equality to our nation as African Americans.

Sincerely
Fredrick Douglass.

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