

Essay #1

- Anderson, Carol. "White Rage." *The Fire this Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race*, edited by Jesmyn Ward, Scribner, 2016, pp. 83-88.
- Baldwin, James. *The Fire Next Time*. Vintage International, 1993.
- . "Notes of a Native Son." *Notes of a Native Son*. Beacon P, 1955, pp. 85-114.
- De Verteuil, Roger. "The Scapegoat Archetype." *Journal of Religion and Health*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Jul., 1966), pp. 209-225.
- Morrison, Toni. "Being or Becoming the Stranger." *The Origin of Others*. Harvard UP, 2017, pp. 19-39.
- Said, Edward W. "Knowing the Oriental." *Orientalism*, Vintage Books, 1978, pp. 31-49.

Class Handouts—

"Definitions (of terms)" from *The Oxford English Dictionary*.
"Definitions and Criteria."

Writing Process—Try to complete one WAC conference or *prior* to writing your draft to *work on the paper's thesis and focus*. Once you have a thesis and the start of a draft, consider visiting the WAC Writing Center where you can get assistance as you draft.

Assignment—

"Please try to be clear, dear James, through the storm which rages about your youthful head today, about the reality which lies behind the words *acceptance* and *integration*. There is no reason for you to try to become like white people and there is no basis whatever for their impertinent assumption that *they* must accept *you*. The really terrible thing, old buddy, is that *you* must accept *them*. And I mean that very seriously. You must accept them and accept them with love. For these innocent people have no other hope. They are, in effect, still trapped in a history which they do not understand; and until they understand it, they cannot be released from it. They have had to believe for many years, and for innumerable reasons, that black men are inferior to white men. Many of them, indeed, know better, but, as you will discover, people find it very difficult to act on what they know. To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger. In this case, the danger, in the minds of most white Americans, is the loss of their identity" (Baldwin *Fire* 8-9).

- acceptance
- integration
- "you must accept *them*"
- "innocent people"
- "trapped in a history which they do not understand"
- "released from" that history
- inferiority
- "To act is to be committed, and to be committed is to be in danger"
- "the loss of their identity"

For this first essay assignment, **summarize the preceding passage from Baldwin's book** and then **find a focus** from among the ideas in the bulleted list to develop in your essay; the ideas *are* interconnected, but there are too many to effectively develop in this paper. Consider the significance of the idea(s) you select; certainly, give it context and then explore the significance you see. What, exactly, do you want your reader to understand about Baldwin and his view of race relations in America? *FOCUS* on the central idea you wish to explore.

In this essay, you *must* reference (use the ideas of) at least three of the assigned texts other than Baldwin's book. *Use* these references to help create context and to support your claims. Do NOT simply drop a quote into your paper and then mechanically write "this means that. . . ." Instead, integrate the ideas, paraphrasing when possible, and *build* your reasoning through *synthesis*: weaving the various ideas together.

And make sure that you define any specialized terms you introduce into your text; do not assume your reader already understands what you mean or how you are applying a term.

You are required to follow MLA formatting for this paper: page setup, parenthetical referencing, and works cited. We will review all of this in class, but I have provided you the work cited formatting for the assigned texts at the top of this assignment page, and I have provided a link to the Purdue OWL on the class website (bobbyman.net).