

Essay #2

Baldwin, James. "On Being 'White' . . . And Other Lies." *Black on White: Black Writers on What it Means to be White*, edited by David R. Roediger, Schocken Books, 1998, pp. 177-180.

Caldwell, Ellen C. "Between the World and Me: Ta-Nehisi Coates and the Legacy of James Baldwin," 29 July 2015, <https://daily.jstor.org/ta-nehisi-coates-and-the-legacy-of-james-baldwin>. Accessed 1 July 2018.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

Conversationdoc. conversationdoc.com/growing-up-black/

Wright, Richard. "Between the World and Me." Class Handout.

Writing Process—Complete one WAC conference or visit the WAC Writing Center while working on the draft for this assignment. Be sure to *focus on the organization*, which must utilize the *criteria/characteristics of your definition*. Do **NOT** organize by author's name or title; instead, focus on the ideas (criteria) that shape your definition.

Assignment—

Early in his book, Ta-Nehisi Coates addresses racism directly: "race is the child of racism, not the father" (7), and "racism is a visceral experience" (10). One of the major themes in his book is racism. It is a topic that most Americans will only reluctantly discuss—either out of fear or anger.

For this second essay, **define racism** (use the "Definitions" handout), and then explore how your definition of racism shapes an understanding of what Coates refers to as "the Dream"—how racism in America and the "Dream" reinforce and sustain each other.

You will, of course, need to reference Coates for this paper, but you are also required to reference two other of the assigned texts we have read this semester. In addition, you must include references to two *outside, independently-researched texts* (we will talk about research in class). The assigned texts will provide the necessary concepts for this paper; the outside research might help provide more specific context and examples—remember that definitions *must* be applied and evaluated (which means that you apply your abstract criterion to a specific example). Stay focused on the criteria you develop in your definition and use these to shape your paper; consider *how* these criteria relate or connect to each other.

Remember that you are required to follow MLA formatting for class essays. You are always able to get clarification on MLA issues 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 website (bobbyman.net).