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ENG 104-01

### Response Essay 1

In this essay, I chose reading “the appropriation of culture” by Percival Everett. In this essay I argued that Daniel is egocentric, based on the argument that he has small awareness of the surrounding, he forces his dream into reality, and his re-definition of the Confederate flag.

First I argued that he has little to no awareness to his surround, we can make similar claim during the first page of the text. We can assume that Daniel self-centrally sang the song “the Dixieland”, which it represents the south, however he ignored anyone’s opinions and turned the racial song into his own rhythm; the reason shows that Daniel has a high self-interest. He demonstrated the ability to ignore the bar reality, and basically turned such situation into his own world “He sang it slowly. He sang it, feeling the lyrics, deciding that the lyrics were his, deciding that the song was his.”(Everett 1)

At the same page, we also notice Daniel decided to disconnect himself from the situation, or non-aware to his environment, “Daniel didn’t much care for the slaps on the back, but he didn’t focus too much energy on that. He was busy trying to sort out his feelings about what he had just played. The irony of his playing the song straight and from the heart was made more ironic by the fact that as he played it, it came straight and from his heart....” (Everett 1), it clearly mentioned Daniel having a egocentric personality, it is less irony that he played the song from his heart; however it is more likely that he wanted to make that song representing himself as a individual in front of all the judging eyes that he had received from his environment, this

song made him more than his race (African American), deep inside of his heart, he wanted to be recognized as the white folks. Thus that is the reason he wanted to make that song for himself.

In page 2, “He fell asleep and had a dream in which he stopped Pickett’s men on the Emmitsburg Road on their way to the field and said, ‘Give me back my flag.’”. In this sentence, I argued that Daniel has adopted his previous change, which was having small awareness to his environment situation (Racial profile), and turn the changing into reality. In this sentence, it shows a simple idea can grow into a philosophical idea, where he thought that confederate flag should be returned to him, due to his subconscious mind, according to psychology, human mind divided into 3 categories, the conscious mind, the subconscious mind, and the unconscious mind; The conscious mind designated to make daily task decision; where the subconscious mind contains values and beliefs, therefore I argued that Daniel’s subconscious egoism has taken over his conscious thought, by him dreaming about over taken the confederate flag. Therefore it shows that he is egocentric.

Finally, I argued Daniel is purposely ignoring the reality. He ignores the stereotypical definition of the Confederate flag, white supremacy. “I’ve decided that the rebel flag is my flag. My blood is southern blood, right? Well, it’s my flag”(Everett 4), his personality changed the essential stereotypical meaning of the confederate flag, into the definition of a regional representation. Even when the direct confrontation between himself and two larger sized white males; he decided the confederate flag only represents his region, and the white supremacy did not scare him a bit; therefore I can say that Daniel is egocentric, because he placed his beliefs as an dominant over the stereotypical definition of the confederate flag- white supremacy.

As a conclusion, I argued that Daniel is egocentric, based on the reasons, he has small awareness of the surrounding, he forces his dream into reality, and his re-definition of the Confederate flag.