

## Essay 2: Summary and Analysis

- **Due Date 1:** Thursday, Feb 12 : Bring 2 printed drafts to be workshopped  
*Skipping the draft workshop = a lowered grade on revised draft.*
- **Due Date 2:** Thursday, Feb 19 : Revised draft, submitted via Blackboard
- **Length:** 600 - 900 words
- **Research:** Choose a chapter from *Kindred*
- **Format:** MLA Style
- **Value:** 15% of your final grade

### Description

To engage in summary and analysis is to take on one of the most basic activities in academic writing. Such writing typically expresses ideas in a kind of conversation with other people's ideas. In order to make clear to the reader what the conversation is, it's important to summarize those other people's ideas. And in order to make clear where the author stands relative to those ideas, some analysis is usually required.

**Summarize:** First, identify the author and the title of the book. Summarize, *briefly*, the events that have happened so far in the narrative as well as – not so briefly – the events in the chapter that seem most important to you and to your analysis. Provide only the most relevant and important details.

Quote and paraphrase as appropriate.

**Analyze:** How does the author portray the events of this chapter? What do you think of that portrayal? Is it interesting, disturbing, amusing, or ... ? What makes you think so? What issues are at stake in the book? Choose one issue and make that your focus. Consider what we've discussed in class and draw upon your class notes as well as your thoughts about our discussions. What do you think of the way the author addresses the issue? Why?

Quote and paraphrase as appropriate.

Your analysis should about as long as your summary. Don't write a lengthy summary and then provide only 1 or 2 sentences of analysis.

### Choice of readings

You may use any chapter that we've read so far in Octavia Butler's *Kindred*.

### MLA Format

Be sure to format your paper according to MLA guidelines: 1-inch margins, the font Times New Roman, 12-point type, double spaced text, indented first lines for every paragraph. In the upper lefthand corner of your first page, type your name, my name, the name of the course, and the date of the draft. In the header of each page, in the upper righthand corner, include your last name and the page number.