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| **English 4U-ISU**  **Group Conference Form 2017** | |
| **Your Name: Vicky Wang**  **Your Novel: Between the World and Me** | **Members of Your Group Conference:**  **Zara, Gigi, Lucy, Gaby** |
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| **Part 1: Overview**   1. Each member of the group is responsible for providing a synopsis of the novel she has selected for the ISU- (have an appropriate website ready on the day that the group will be conferencing with you). 2. **Focus Question 1**: Provide a brief overview of the historical context your essay will be examining   I will talk about 3 aspects of the book’s historical impact: history of slavery, the conception of race in American culture, and how the American society is built upon the death of African Americans.   1. **Focus Question 2**: Provide a brief overview of the social issues or impact of the work you are examining   My essay will discuss about 5 topics surrounding the social issues or impact of the work I am examining. I will analyze the societal influence on “black-on-black” crime, the societal ignorance on discrimination, the social distance between the white and the black population, the relationship between race and racism, and black parent’s wisdom teaching.   1. **Focus Question 3**: Describe the ways in which this work of literature impacted you on a personal level.   Throughout the book, Coates’s bleak and unoptimistic tone emphasizes on the foolishness of believing that a black person can end racism and assimilate in the American society. Coates conveys that instead of hoping others to end discrimination, we should live and fight for ourselves and our ancestors. In the personal-impact section of my essay, I will explore how Coates’s book encourages me to think about human rights and equality, as well as the meaning and purpose of our lives. | |
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| **Part 2: Essay Structure**   1. Ideas for opening statement and thesis (articulate problems you may be encountering)   Opening: World literature. What are the characteristics of an unforgettable literature?  Thesis: Ta-Nehisi Coates’s *Between the World and Me* is an unforgettable piece of literature that truly impacted the readers’ views and the society.   1. Ideas for each section of your paper, as well as ideas for paragraphs   Historical Impact:  4 paragraph, 4 quotations.  1st paragraph: history of slavery.  In this section, I incorporated other resources to back up my argument. Is the additional detail powerful enough?  Talk about the treatment towards the African Americans. Why racism is so present because of the way the African Americans are treated. Add more secondary quotations.  2nd paragraph: conception of race. The impact of white American’s notion on race and racism.  Points I can include in my explanation: Skin color is determined by latitude. If a race lives closer to the equator, this race tends to have a darker skin color. Therefore, there is no intrinsic difference among races.  3rd paragraph: How America is built upon the death of African Americans.  4th paragraph: Black struggle. The meaning behind the author’s son’s name reveals a period of struggle.   * For the history section of my essay, is there any repetitive context? Should I mention the prosperity of the American society and economy was built on the torture and death of the black bodies in the history of slavery section? Or move it to the 3rd paragraph of the history section of my essay? * There isn’t any obvious repetition in the context. I can briefly mention how the black population has contributed to the American society in my first body paragraph, and explain about this topic in depth in the latter part of my essay.   Social Impact:  5 paragraphs, 5 quotations  1st paragraph: society’s influence on “black on black” crime. Definition of “black on black” crime and discussion about the society’s influence  2nd paragraph: The ignorance of the discrimination and humiliation against the black population among the white Americans.  How to make this subject more concise? Does this topic repeat the 3rd paragraph of my historical context?  Willfully blind about the hardship plaguing African Americans.  Emphasize on the social aspect to avoid repetition.  3rd paragraph: Social Distance  Coates’s personal account that reveals the natural social distance between the black population and the white population. The quotation talks about the natural distance between the black population and the white population. In my essay, I’d like to expand the idea of the “bus” to the entire American society and explain the distance between races within the society.  4th paragraph: Relationship between race and racism.  5th paragraph: Black parent wisdom teaching  Personal Impact:  2 paragraphs, 2 quotations  1st paragraph: human rights and equality. How I hold the same rights and freedom as every other individual.  2nd paragraph: the meaning and purpose of our lives. Relate to personal experience. How does the book help me find my life meaning? What should I fight for?   1. **Groups should offer suggestions for paragraph subjects if needed** 2. Discuss which quotations from primary sources may be most applicable for your essay 3. If you are ready: discuss ideas for conclusion   (Not ready) | |
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| **Part 3: Incorporation of Secondary Sources**   1. Overview what the source is about 2. Discuss how you think you will incorporate each of these secondary sources into the body of your paper  * My first source provides an analysis of Coates’s aims, techniques, and why that technique may resonate well with some aspects of the public and less so with some others. –Because the writer of the article is an African American, there are many parallels between the two authors’ perspectives   I incorporated this source in the black parent’s wisdom teaching section. Because both authors come from the same background, they share many similar experience. Hence, I could conclude that black parent teaching is a tradition and is something important to know in order to understand the black population.   * My second source discusses about the history of race in America and its impact on whites and blacks.   I incorporated this source in the conception of race section.   * My third source analyzes a series of books that depict Baltimore’s history and society. In some sections of the article, the author draws parallel between what Coates portrays in the book and what the author himself perceives in Baltimore.   I incorporated this source to exemplifies the relationship between race and racism. | |
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| **Part 4: Difficulties?**   1. Throughout the conference be sure to articulate any difficulties you may be experiencing so that your conference group can help you ☺  * Maybe considering adding a quotation that relates to my personal account in the personal impact section of the essay. * Be specific about the “dream” I am referring to. Don’t mess up with the American Dream or the “Dream” proposed by Martin Luther King. * Talk about bias in the introduction. Because the author is an African American, he might exaggerate the facts and his personal experience. Pay attention to the author’s word choice. | |