Julie Abundez

Professor McIntosh

English Composition

**8/26**

Hi everyone! It's so nice to meet you all. My name is Julie, a City College freshman. I was born in Morelos-cuernavaca, Mexico but raised in the Bronx. I am 17 years old and a Business administration and Management major student. I graduated from Belmont preparatory Highschool in the Theodore Roosevelt Educational Campus. I am a very outgoing individual and I love making new friends. In my free time I enjoy writing and reading, singing and listening to music as well as playing football and volleyball with friends, but first asking my parents for permission of course \*haha, life\*. What I am looking forward to most for this semester, apart from getting to know all of you, is just the new experience. I don't just mean the virtual experience but college life, being in an environment where I must depend on myself and take on responsibility, especially in this process where I don't personally have contact with you all to remind me of work being due \* I forget alot\*. A fun fact related to me, is that most of the time many people think I am lying about my nationality, due to the fact I don't exactly fit the stereotypical “mexican girl” idea but I am here to prove different. Oh! Another fun fact about me is that my eye color is also considered the rarest eye color in the world, green for those wondering. It's so nice to meet you all, hopefully we can become friends.

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**9/3**

The rhetorical situation that is mentioned in the article, “The Dangers of Tipping While Being Black,” by Hari Ziyad is an incident that occured between the author, his friends and a waitress. It is visible from how the waitress treated them that she was someone with not enough patience, then again she could just be racist. The author mentions how society usually connects being black, to being uneducated, and poor. Thus leading to the title, the title represents how because of someone's skin color they can be perceived as what I just mentioned, so when a mistake or a miscommunication springs up, these people of color are usually verbally attacked and embarrassed, which in my view point, that is not okay. I find the author's message to be persuasive because not only did he share a personal experience he shared what can be seen in society today. In society today we are put into boxes, society judges whether we are seen as educated or uneducated, attractive or unattractive, and in many times rich or poor. Many times we are identified with these boxes due to our skin complexity, for example over the years when speaking to my friends they have referred to girls coming out of fordham university as “rich white girls” but we don't know if they are struggling financially. Now this is not my friends fault, it is society's fault. In society we are put to attack one another, we use what we see with our eyes to identify someone's past and current situation. The author made it easy to understand his message because as the generation we are, we are more than aware of what is going on in the world, thanks to social media.

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**9/9**

Growing up, we were told that in order for others to take us seriously we must speak in a professional manner. The truth that everyone avoids discussing is that, where we were raised ultimately affects us. The habits of this environment has stuck with us, we speak how we were taught, and we were taught that things such as greeting others with “yeo'' or “wassup” is normal but when we go into an environment where others do not communicate in the same way, we are seen as someone that can not hold power. Language is power, and you must hold your power over others heads and act as if you are superior to them. In contrast, In environments where not much hope can be seen, we respect each other and treat each other as equals. In society, we are ranked, the person in first place, the most professional, with the Harvard worthy language will always be more respected in the business world, and will hold the most power. Why? because we the unprofessionals have not learned in what environment our language should be spoken like said in James Baldwin's article , "If Black English isn't a Language, Then Tell Me What Is?" paragraph 4, sentence 3. Society privileges a certain type of english speaking. Why? their racist roots, the article discusses that much of black culture has influenced how we speak, and today more than ever our generation can see that racism has not changed, “Has Racism Declined in America? It Depends on Who Is Asking and What Is Asked” by John B. McConahay can support this claim. The racists refuse to accept anything other than what they are used to, and that means our langauge has got to go.

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**9/17**

* <https://theconversation.com/america-needs-more-not-fewer-migrant-workers-102627>
* <https://youtu.be/5o4d6Wp3u2Q>
* <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/21366213/trump-immigration-policy-second-term>
* <https://escholarship.org/content/qt0v63n81c/qt0v63n81c.pdf>

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**9/22**

Amanda Stenberg, now a 21 year old activist for human rights and female empowerment spoke on black culture at the mere age of 16, she did so for a school project, not imagining how much of an impact she would create when producing this video. This video is called “Don't cash crop on my cornrows,” The rhetorical situation that was presented in the video is how black culture has been accepted and exploited by white people, by the same white people that have found themselves struggling to accept Black people. The same white people that have found black culture to be a sort of trend, something that adds eggyness to them, the same people that don't recognize that such black culture is part of an identity, the identity of that person of color they are struggling to accept. Amanda Stenberg gave different examples of what was included in the term “black culture” such as grills, hand gestures, and the most prominent, cornrows. She uses visuals when speaking on each example of blackculture, in order to support her argument about how white people have exploited the culture. For example, she did such by comparing a black woman's cornrows, and how these women use cornrows as a form of keeping their hair neat and untangled, then presents a white woman using the same cornrows to make herself seem edgy in a music video. She then continues with this pattern, by presenting a black person doing things that is a part of their identity, and then presenting a white person trying to do the same, obviously looking strange because they are trying too hard. Personally, I do find her message persuasive, because she gave acceptable examples, she included people that we grew up watching, seeing their style change around and imitating someone they are not. Another example of appropriation in our current culture is taking dance moves, such as moves that originated from spanish music and making it famous on tiktok.

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**10/8**

Hook's central argument in “Moving beyond pain” could be determined to be about Beyonce and about how this music icon took the step to shine light on those that could possibly be determined to be the most ignored within society. Hook speaks about how Beyonce within her visual representations in the famously known album, “lemonade” glorifies black women just trying to get by in the business world, and also get by in life in general. Hook goes so far to give a description of what exactly Beyonce did to glorify these women, hook speaks about society and how it has chosen not to include women of color with different body types she even mentions the clothes, and just the surrounding in general dating back to the past where it all started in colonial times. Hook's argument is persuasive because when you go to see Beyonce's video you see everything that is mentioned within her article, in that music video, you begin to see it with a different perspective now. One passage from Hooks piece that I find meaningful is “Honoring the self, loving our bodies, is an appropriate stage in the construction of healthy self-esteem. This aspect of Lemonade is affirming. Certainly, to witness Miss Hattie, the 90-year-old grandmother of Jay-Z, give her personal testimony that she has survived...” This part is meaningful to me simply because of that first part. I have noticed that with ugly stares, hesitant chuckles from both boys and girls my self esteem has been ruined but it is also I who brings my self down even worse, I let society into my head to determine how I should act, how I should dress, and how I should look but I must love myself, I have to love myself.

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**10/29**

The argument Lorde makes about anger is that anger is connected to racism, she mentions that when women respond to racism they are responding to anger, the anger that has built up within themselves. She states in the first part of her article, “Women responding to racism means women responding to anger; Anger of exclusion, of unquestioned privilege, etc.” Through this we can infer that Lorde is saying that racism has caused anger to become a common thing and flourish. The effect of the inclusion of the bullet point list of incidents is that this list makes her argument sound more persuasive, many tend to only believe authors when there is strong evidence backing up the claims that are made in the articles they produce. I think her argument is persuasive because she includes valid points and evidence such as the bullet points list, as well as bringing the past and the feelings that these women of color may go through for example, in the article it states “Women of Color in america have grown up within a symphony of anger at being silenced at being unchosen, at knowing that when we survive, it is in spite of a world that takes for granted our lack of humanness, and which hates our very existence outside of its service. And I say symphony rather than cacophony because we have had to learn to orchestrate those furies so that they do not tear us apart.” Through this we can understand what has actually been going on right beneath our noses, and we can agree because we have seen a feeling of sympathy be shown on women of color but there hasn't been a moment to help them.

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**11/9**

DiAngelo touches on the topic of race-based stress, mentioning fragility of one's ego when we are called out for something that we know is true but don't want to acknowledge, related to race of course. In the article named “White Fragility,” DiAngelo speaks specifically on the fragility of white people's ego, arguing that white people are ultimately privileged from the getgo but when they are called out for it they react in a vile way. She supported this argument by including a personal experience where she was placed with another individual, a black woman, to lead a presentation on the topic of privilege to a large group of white people in a workplace where the only person of color in sight was the woman standing next to her. When presenting the definition of racism including the fact that white people are privileged, anger abrupted from one of the workers, a white man, he claimed that white people have been discriminated against for “25 years!” The way he reacted, by slamming his fist and shouting only worked as evidence to DiAngelo's argument that white people are privileged and don't know how to take criticism, the demonstration of turning heads by the other white people also helped the argument. To say that race is “socially constructed” it means to say that race has been built on our cognitive reasoning behind why only a certain group of people withhold certain positions that are seen as socially more acceptable. For a concept such as race to be seen as socially constructed it would have to have been adopted by society, meaning the different factors that fall under race were determined by what society over the years have passed down and added, making race socially constructed.

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**11/12**

Bryan Stevenson the author of “Just Mercy” wrote this memoir to show the readers what he faced when he took on the battle of freeing an innocent man from the grips of death row in 1988. Stevenson had an interesting way of approaching the readers, he chose to begin his memoir right off the bat, introducing many different characters. He introduced a temporary receptionist who he described as an “elegant” woman, introduced an attitude filled judge, and introduced the man who was being threatened with death row, his name Walter McMillian making this the McMillian case. Stevenson started his memoir off not only introducing us to the characters but also allowing us to see what these characters were made up of for ourselves. The receptionist can be seen as a serious person dedicated to her job, while the judge can be seen as stubborn, a know it all, always trying to take control of everything. The narrator, Bryan Stevenson, sort of introduced himself as well, he can be seen as a passionate person, he liked to do things the right way while still having a little fun, as can be seen in the way he dresses, never too uptight like the judge or receptionist. As the readers we have now seen how these characters are, making us feel attached and wanting to know more about what's to happen, thus drawing us in. What we learned about race and justice in this chapter is that justice for the minority race did not matter to the privileged people. The privileged people believed someone's race determined whether they were capable of committing a crime, and for the minority race it was determined they were definitely likely to commit a crime thus justice could not be granted to them because they were not someone worthy of it.