**Midterm Paper: Research-based summary and commentary in third-person exposition**

***Generating writing from reading—expanding discussion with explanation and analysis***

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| **Fifty years or two generations after *Fire Next Time,* discuss race relations in the U.S. today.** |

Read:

*The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin and 2+ sources—for example, recent cases of police killing of unarmed black men, #blacklivesmatter, socio-economic segregation (the “new Jim Crow”), mass incarceration.

Review:

Research and writing process: *NWR,* 385-397 and 398-407. Student FNT presentations on Gdrive.

**To do:**

Read critically: (a) recognize author’s key points, (b) register your position—whether you agree/disagree with author and your own experience and observations, (c) questions and concerns provoked by these readings.

Key words and phrases. Look up historical and literary references by Baldwin, such as Kipling’s White Man’s Burden, Charles Dickens on poverty, Dostoyevsky on crime and punishment, Verwoerd on apartheid, Frederick Douglas on emancipation, Malcolm X/Elijah Mohammed on the Nation of Islam.

Expand key words into a concept or idea for discussion. What’s the author’s main idea(s)? What are the implications (indirect or unstated meaning or suggested significance) of this idea? Provide quotes or examples from the reading as a point of departure for your own commentary. Occasional use of “I” or “we” is okay, especially to register your personal experience or observation. *Note how Baldwin intersects the personal and the political.*

**Find a focus (choose one):**

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| Historic Jim Crow v. the new Jim Crow: socio-economic segregation in K-12 public schools |
| Separatism v. integration (e.g., Nation of Islam, apartheid, segregation v. 1960s reforms in education, voting rights, civil rights—choose a case example) |
| I AM A MAN 1968 Memphis sanitation strike v. Black Lives Matter |
| white perception/imaginary of “the Negro problem” and African-American futurism |
| or, a focus of your choice (option: see instructor to brainstorm a focus) |

Format:

Include direct quotations or examples with in-text citation. List sources as works cited—according to MLA format. 3-5 pages, develop a title. See Canvas lab, esp. in-text citations and works cited.

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| **Alternative midterm paper: Compare James Baldwin’s *The Fire Next Time* (1963) and Ta-Nehesi Coates’ *Between the World and Me* (2015). See instructor for further consultation.** |

Criteria for midterm paper:

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| *research skills* | *writing skills* |
| credible sources, library db of full-text articles | sentence grammar and paragraph development |
| recognition of key words, ideas in source material | clear thesis and supporting facts, examples, quotes |
| MLA format, incl. in-text citations, works cited | balance of summary and commentary |

*Write a free-standing, research-based, documented paper. Avoid vague generalizations or opinions*

*without specific examples and quotations from sources. Advisory: plagiarism, intentional or not, = F.*