

Dr. Catherine M. Eagan
English 1A, Las Positas College

Essay 3—Strong Response to an Article

Accidental Asian and the other readings we have done so far this semester introduced us to the complexities of racial identity, the existence of racism and privilege, and the appropriate response to racism and privilege when we see it. While Liu's response to racism and privilege is firm but measured, the response of Jumoke Balogun in "Xenophobia Is the Disease You Should Be Afraid of, Not Ebola," the article you will read for Essay 3, is forceful and uncompromising. Your job for Essay 3 will be to summarize her article and then respond to it on a personal level (reflective critique), on the level of the quality of her ideas (ideas critique), and on the level of her rhetorical strategy (rhetorical critique). Taking all of this together, your thesis will then make a claim about whether her article is effective and explain why it is or isn't.

A **rhetorical critique** "analyzes a text's rhetorical strategies and evaluates how effectively the author achieves his or her intended goals" (Ramage et. al. 92). The tools you can use to write this kind of critique are detailed in our textbook's table on pp. 93-94, but they include:

- Audience and purpose
- Genre
- Style
- Appeals to *logos, pathos, and ethos*
- Author's angle of vision

An **ideas critique** engages with "the ideas at stake in the text" (Ramage et. al. 95). You will strive to blend a "with-the-grain" with an "against the grain" reading, weighing how convincing the author's ideas are in a fair and balanced manner. However, you are expected to have an opinion about the merit of the author's ideas and pursue it in the thesis. Again, the table on pp. 95-96 provides helpful questions to ask.

A **reflective critique** "invites you to connect the reading to your own personal experiences, beliefs, and values" (Ramage et. al. 96-97). This essay will have minimal reflection compared to analysis of the article's rhetoric and ideas, but the article certainly might inspire you to reflect on your values and respond to dilemmas of how to cope with change and difference.

The resulting 3-page essay will follow our textbook's template, modeled on pp. 98-101 with the student strong response essay "Can a Green Thumb Save the Planet?" written in response to Michael Pollan's "Why Bother?" pp. 114-19.

Introduction ending with article's purpose

Summary of the article

Thesis making a claim regarding the effectiveness of the article

PIE paragraphs that make rhetorical, ideas, and reflective critiques of article
(sometimes one critique at a time, sometimes blended)

Conclusion restating thesis and bringing closure to response, perhaps suggesting significance of issue covered.

Essay 3 Summary Due	Monday, October 20
Essay 3 Planning Part I Due (Part II completed in class):	Wednesday, October 22
Essay 3 P.I.E. Outline (Part III Planning) Due	Monday, October 27
Essay 3 First Draft Due:	Wednesday, October 29
Essay 3 Final Draft Due:	Monday, November 3

3 full pages

MLA style for formatting (Times New Roman 12-point, double spaced)

MLA in-text citation for direct quotes, paraphrases, and partial summaries

MLA Works Cited list