

1. Essay

One the first day of the exam you will write a five part essay that addresses the following prompt:

One of the most significant themes in the history of African Americans in the United States is the struggle to define themselves, both as individuals and as a community rather than to accept the definitions and caricatures imposed by the dominant culture. In this essay you will explain how the dominant culture sought to define African Americans through history, law, culture and caricature. Then you will examine how African Americans used both art and action to define themselves.

You will be able use the outline template provided on the day of the exam. Making sure this outline template is thoroughly complete and includes specific examples from the readings and exhibits we have examined will be key to your success on the exam.

Structure of the essay:

Introduction - Your introduction should provide context for the essay by briefly introducing the struggles African Americans have endured in American history, and include a clear thesis that and previews the arguments you will make regarding African American self definition.

Body Part 1 - Here you will explain how the dominant culture sought to define African Americans through history, law, culture and caricature. Your topic sentence should clearly indicate that this definition was flawed and wrong, but nonetheless had tremendous impact on American culture. Then you will provide and explain **three** examples, supported with direct evidence (from the documents, your textbook, the presentation or the handouts from the activities). At least one of these examples must be a caricature from the activity we did in class and at least one must come from another source (a law, a court ruling, a historical interpretation). Each example must be explained in terms of how the example sought to impose a negative definition on African Americans individually or collectively. This paragraph will be 8-10 sentences in length.

Body Part 2 - Here you will explain how African Americans used art to define themselves individually and as a community. Your topic sentence should indicate that art was used as a means of creating a positive self definition that was often at odds with the definition imposed by the majority culture. Then, you will provide and explain three examples of African American art that worked to establish this definition. Examples should include specific references to the art examined in class. At least one of the examples must contain a quotation. This paragraph should be 8-10 sentences in length.

Body part 3 - Here you will explain how African Americans used their actions to define themselves as individuals and as a community. Your topic sentence should indicate that actions taken to resist unjust laws or policies imposed by the dominant culture served to define who African Americans were as individuals and as a community. Then you will provide and explain three examples of actions that worked to achieve this positive self definition. Two of the three examples must be supported with a quote either from the documents (not poetry or art) or the textbook. This paragraph should be 8-10 sentences in length.

Conclusion - Your conclusion should summarize your main points and bring the essay smoothly to its end.

Introduction:

Context:

Thesis:

Body Part 1 - How the dominant culture sought to define African Americans

Topic sentence:

Evidence (caricature):

Explanation:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Body Part 2 - How African Americans sought to define themselves through art

Topic sentence that includes transition:

Evidence (quote):

Explanation:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Body part 3 - How African Americans sought to define themselves through action

Topic sentence that includes transition:

Evidence (quote):

Explanation:

Evidence (quote):

Explanation:

Evidence:

Explanation:

Conclusion:

The second day of the exam will be closed notes and include short answer and document analysis questions

2. Reading comprehension/document analysis

There will be excerpts provided from several of the following documents. You will be asked to explain the author's main idea, connect the document to the themes of the unit, apply the ideas of the document to a real world situation or complete other analytic tasks. For each of the following documents, identify what the document was **about** using three bullet points and then in one clearly stated sentence, summarize **the argument** made in that document.

Document	What the document is about (three bullets - not sentences)	What the argument of the document is in one sentence
Diary of a slave girl		
Swallow barn		
Go down Moses		
Mitch Landrieu's speech		
The pro Confederate monuments speech		
W.E.B. DuBoise document		
Brown v. Board excerpts		

Document	What the document is about (three bullets - not sentences)	What the argument of the document is in one sentence
Dr. King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail		

3. Terms

Know the definition of the following terms and their significance to the themes of the unit. This section requires memorization!

Term	Definition	Significance and connection to unit themes
Civil War amendments (13, 14, 15)		
Plessy v. Ferguson		
Birth of a Nation		
Great Migration		
The myth of the Lost Cause		
Booker T. Washington		
A. Phillip Randolph		
The Crisis in Little Rock		
The Civil Rights Act of 1964		
The Voting Rights Act of 1965		