

Expository Reading/Writing

Module 9 Writing Task: Language, Gender, and Culture Proposal

DUE Wednesday, February 28 by 11:59 pm to Turnitin.com

Read the following writing assignment carefully. In particular, try to answer the following questions about the assignment:

- What genre is the prompt asking you to generate? Is it a letter, an essay, a report, an email, or something else?
- What format will this follow?
- What are the reader's expectations for this genre likely to be?
- What is your rhetorical purpose (raise readers' awareness, persuade people to behave differently? entertain?)?
- What kind of support would be most appropriate to use?
- How will you use the readings to inform and support your writing?

Writing Task:

Among other issues, each of the articles in this module considers how we might respond to the ways that social environments and norms constrain us. About a boy finding that school culture does not value his preferred ways of behaving, David Brooks imagines,

In Kindergarten, he'd wonder why he just couldn't be good. By junior high, he'd lose interest in trying and his grades would plummet.

Then he'd rebel. If the official school culture was über-nurturing, he'd be über-crude. If it valued cooperation and sensitivity, he'd devote his mental energies to violent video games and aggressive music.

In his book's prologue, "Prelude: The Barbershop," Vershawn Ashanti Young describes his ambivalence about trying (and failing) to fit in as a "homeboy" and discusses the academic and economic success he eventually chose to pursue. Because of his choices, he reflects, "I didn't have to fight to get out of the ghetto. I was kicked out."

And finally, Audre Lorde suggests that people may try at all costs to accommodate socially imposed constraints, writing, "What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?"

Lorde, however, also suggests an alternative to either suffering silently to fit in or rebelling—she encourages listeners and readers to speak out and use language and action to change the social conditions of our lives.

After you have considered Lorde's question above and the alternative she subsequently proposes, write a speech, a letter (to an individual or organization privately or publicly), or a public service announcement that proposes meaningful change in your community related to the issues raised in these readings. Decide on an audience to address—your classmates; parents; younger (or older) students; coaches; administrators; teachers; church, city, or community officials—and compose an argument both describing a particular "tyrann[y]" or challenge and proposing changes that may improve the lives of those who endure it. Like Butler, Tannen, Brooks, Young, and Lorde, you may use your own or others' personal experiences (including those of the five authors in this module), hypothetical situations, and reflections to make your case.

Requirements:

- 800-1000 words
- MLA format
- 5-6 quotes from articles
- First-person "I" is acceptable if using a personal experience as evidence

After reading the writing task, summarize it below:

My topic ideas:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who do I want to address?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is my argument?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Brainstorming space: