

## Goal:

1. Identify the social/ institutional structures/mechanisms that create or maintain domination or oppression.
2. Identify the forms of resistance against domination and oppression.

## Assignment:

Read at least 3 sources that describe or discuss a modern example of racial or ethnic oppression or domination in the United States. Write a short (800 word) summary of this example or instance of oppression and domination. Focus your summary only on the most important mechanisms or structures that created or maintained that particular instance of oppression or domination and on at least one way in which the individual or group resisted this oppression or domination.

You are to write your summary in your blog.

**Due date:**

**February 16, before midnight.**

## F.A.Q.

*What do you mean by modern? How recent does it have to be?*

The example must be something that occurred or is occurring since 2000.

*What kinds of sources of information can I use?*

You want to use legitimate sources of information. These include (but are not limited to) newspapers, magazines, peer-reviewed academic literature, blogs written by legitimate organizations or individuals, NPR or PBS newscasts, NPR or PBS documentaries, video/web conferences, and TED talks. Be sure to be critical of the source of information. If it sounds a little bit biased, look at who is writing or speaking.

If you are not sure if any specific source is legitimate, send it to me and I'll give you my opinion.

*What do you mean by "example of racial or ethnic oppression or domination?"*

You want your example to illustrate the ways in which racial or ethnic groups of people continue to be dominated or oppressed. You can choose to focus on the experience of a specific group in a specific place. You can choose to focus on the experience of a specific group in the US as a whole. You can also focus on an individual, as long as you make the connection between that individual's experience and what is the common experience of that person's racial/ethnic group. You could also focus on a law or policy that has or will have racially disparate outcomes.

Some potential ideas:

- The decision by Lowe's to pull advertising from the show *All American Muslim*.
- The elimination of the Latin Jazz, R&B Album, etc. award categories in the Grammys.
- The proposed changes to the fares and service by the MBTA.
- The deportation of immigrant workers.
- Anti-immigrant laws in Alabama or Arizona.
- The misquoting by a CBS Chicago TV news station to make 4 year old sound violent.
- Business owners posting signs prohibiting black people from using the business.
- Specific racial or ethnic disparities in health, education, criminal punishment, etc.
- Specific instance of environmental injustice.
- Law making ethnic studies illegal in Arizona.
- The variety of ways of calling for the assassination of President Obama.
- The disproportionately white winners of the Mark Twain award.
- The racial disparities in NFL quarterbacks.
- And more....

If you are not sure whether your example or instance is acceptable, please send me an email.

*I don't know how to write something like this. What should it look like.*

The summary should be clear, concise, and convincing. Do not try to sound smart. Just try to be clear.

If you are struggling with how to write this, you might want to try this structure:

- 1-2 paragraph(s) summarizing the example/ instance/ incident.
- 2-3 paragraphs summarizing the structures or mechanisms that create, support, or maintain that form of oppression or domination.
- 2-3 paragraphs summarizing the ways in which the individual or group are resisting this oppression.
- 1 short paragraph conclusion.