

Make-up assignment for Du Bois paper: DU BOIS, CARTER, AND ASANTE on Black racial identity and assimilation:

You can choose to do this assignment instead of rewriting your Du Bois paper. There are advantages and disadvantages of each. For this one, you have a better chance of getting a higher grade because I have not provided you with so many “signposts” as I have done for the rewrite (individual comments and the handout). On the other hand, those signposts also ensure that your rewrite is likely to be on track as an improvement over the original, whereas you can’t be as sure of that on the make-up assignment. (See further remarks on grading at end of assignment.)

Write a 3-4 page essay (800-1200 words) on the following topic, *answering every question within the topic* in the context of an overall coherent essay. PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY!!!!

W.E.B. Du Bois (*Souls of Black Folk*), Molefi Asante (“*Racism, Consciousness, and Afrocentricity*”), and Stephen Carter (“*The Black Table, The Empty Seat, and the Tie*”) all advocate and defend an attachment to Black identity. In doing so, they each propose distinct ways for Black Americans to think about themselves and their collective Black identity. To put it another way, each of the three authors suggests forms of ethical/political identity and self-understandings for Black people, which that author regards as healthy, accurate, valid, and/or useful.

As part of their exploration of black identity, each of the authors takes a stand on the issue of *assimilation*.

Compare and **contrast** these *three* authors with regard to the issues just described – (a) the nature or content of black identity; (b) the form of attachment to black identity advocated by the author; (c) the nature and value or disvalue of assimilation.

You must deal with all three authors. Do *not* focus very much on their different personal biographies; talk about what they *say*, not where they came from. Keep in mind that Du Bois is writing for and in a different historical era than the other two; do not treat him as a contemporary. Also keep in mind that although both Carter and Asante are talking about the present (1993, when their essays were published), Asante does give attention to the period when he was growing up in the South – the 1940’s and 1950’s.

You might find Callan’s “*The Ethics of Assimilation*” useful in helping you think about what assimilation is, since he gives an explicit characterization of it; but it is not necessary in the paper to refer to Callan.

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If you choose to do this make-up assignment, I will grade your paper, and if your grade on the paper is higher than your grade on the Du Bois paper, I will substitute the grade on this paper for that one and will not count the grade on the Du Bois paper at all. If your grade is lower on this paper than the Du Bois paper but is above a 2.0, I will add .2 to your Du Bois grade (for effort). If your grade is the same or .1 or .2 higher than the Du Bois grade, I will add .3 to the Du Bois grade.