

Assignments

Week 9, beginning 10/13/2008:

Tuesday:

- I'll hand back your family papers, which for the most part were quite good, and we'll take some time to discuss grammatical ideas and MLA conventions.
- For your identity paper, which will probably be due two weeks from Thursday, you're going to write a compare-contrast paper in which you will examine how identity is influenced by adverse events and environments, but this time you will not include your personal experience. As an example of the kind of question you might address, consider the following paper topic:
 - a. Compare the reactions of Douglass, Angelou, Baldwin and Staples to race-inflected encounters. What do the similarities and differences tell us about these individuals and their respective times? How do the authors turn disadvantages to their advantage? What impact do these psychosocial crises ([Butler 81](#)) have on their identity formation? Do any of the authors experience Erikson's concept of identity diffusion, meaning that it's difficult for them to form relationships, plan for the future, and achieve their goals?
- I'll develop a list of similar questions on the other readings for you to consider. In addition you can come up with your own topic provided you're dealing with the authors' psychosocial crises and provided you check with me first.
- Since I'm behind in grading papers for my other classes, I'll not give you a quiz today on Baldwin, Staples, and now Cofer, but be prepared for one on Thursday.
- We'll continue with our discussion of Angelou and maybe start on Baldwin.

Homework due Thursday:

1. Work on your rewrites, which are due a week from Thursday on 10/23.
2. Read Judith Ortiz Cofer's "The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria," pages 112 to 118.
3. In your journals address questions 1, 2 and 3.

Thursday:

- We'll continue our discussion of your readings and possible paper topics.

Homework due Tuesday:

1. Read Richard Rodriguez's "Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood," pages 326 to 349.
2. In your journal address question 2 & 4.



"I just don't think attack ads have a place in selling baby clothes."