

Continuing a Revolution

A panel of Harlem Renaissance authors has been brought forward in time to discuss the following 1960's quotes:

In a multiracial society no group can make it alone. It is a myth to believe that the Irish, the Italians, and the Jews...rose to power through separatism. It is true that they stuck together. But their group unity was always enlarged by joining in alliances with other groups such as political machines and trade unions. To succeed in a pluralistic society, and an often hostile one at that, the Negro obviously needs organized strength, but that strength will only be effective when it is consolidated through constructive alliances with the majority group.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.—

OR

Revolutions are never fought by turning the other cheek. Revolutions are never based upon love-your-enemy and pray-for-those-who-spitefully-use-you. And revolutions are never waged singing "We Shall Overcome." Revolutions are based on bloodshed. Revolutions are never compromising. Revolutions are never based upon any kind of tokenism whatsoever. Revolutions are never even based upon that which is begging a corrupt society or a corrupt system to accept us into it. Revolutions overturn systems. And there is no system on this earth more corrupt, more criminal, than this system that in 1964 ... still enslaves 22 million Afro-Americans.

—Malcolm X—

The assignment is for each member of your group to adopt the persona of one of the Harlem writers, including Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois, and script the conversation as they discuss why they agree or disagree with one of the above quotes. You will make your decision on whether they would agree or disagree based on the content of their work, their biographies (additional research may be necessary) and class reading and discussion concerning historical events of the 1920's. Your panel must have at least one author who agrees with the quote and at least one author who disagrees with the quote. They will discuss at least two of the common issues of Harlem Renaissance literature as they relate to (either support or refute) this quote. They will quote from their own work (most authors do in interviews — it's an ego thing), they can quote from each others' works (giving credit where credit is due), and they will refer specifically to the quote from either Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or Malcolm X.

Format: On the first line of your paper, list the panel members. Do not waste time and energy on description, or extraneous information. Your paper should look like a transcript of a conversation. For example:

L. Hughes: In “America” I have also taken on this issue. I believe other authors would agree with the line...(line 14).

Du Bois: While I agree that ... I must also contend...

Assume that a host has introduced the panel members, and that they are familiar with the quote. You do not need to worry about providing introductory material. Do include the name of the poem in the sentences that include quotes (like the sample above).

Remember the following:

- Minimum Four FULL pages
- Typed
- Double-spaced between writers/single space discussion
- Size fourteen font
- Identify speakers as shown on previous page
- Each writer must “speak” at least 5 times
(quotes don’t count as “speaking” unless you explain, or use it to make a point you have already made)
- The group must refer to BOTH Washington and Du Bois in its presentation

Grades--

/20 Evidence of Practice/Preparation

/20 Clarity/Presentation/Professionalism

/60 Written Work (accuracy, completeness, use of literature, including quoted material)

Total /100

PRESENTATION DATES: