

English IV Level 1 Mid-Unit Summative Assessment

Purpose: This is a mid-unit assessment designed to build purpose and engagement in analytical reading as well as to strengthen written literary analysis skills.

Product: A concise essay that clearly and carefully evaluates the author's purpose in composing a work.

- 300-500 words; clearly edited and revised for proper grammar, spelling and mechanics; MLA formatted.
- a rhetorical precis focused upon the novel alone in the first paragraph.
- MLA cited textual evidence from the novel, the article, and the interview.
- Works Cited Page (not included in word count)
- 50-point Summative Assessment

Process:

Step 1: Please read and listen to the NPR resources: "Octavia Butler: Writing Herself into the Story" and make notes in your Writing Journal that summarize the main points of these works.

Step 2: Read the following essay prompt carefully:

"Butler often said she was strongly inspired to write it (*Kindred*) when she heard young black people minimize the severity of slavery, and strongly assert what they would or would not have tolerated if they were enslaved. She wanted them to not only know the *facts* of slavery, but how slavery *felt*. She wanted to make those militant young people see that even surviving such an institution made their ancestors heroic."

-from Karen Grigsby Bates on NPR's *Morning Edition*, July 10, 2017

No matter your own ethnic identity, as Butler's intended audience, a young person who has not personally experienced slavery, do you think she was successful in portraying to you how slavery felt?

It would be important to think carefully about the difference between empathy and sympathy and you may choose to agree or disagree with Butler's premise. Regardless of your stance on the argument, you must use evidence from *all three* sources to support your evaluation of Butler's work.

Please note, you need not have completed reading the novel in order to write an excellent essay.

Step 3: Begin the planning stage of this essay by using your **Writing Journal** to compose the rhetorical precis (lesson and worksheet to follow), decide upon your own view of Butler's success, and collect evidence from the three sources to support your stance.

Step 4: Once your draft has been created, begin the revision process by reading your work out loud to yourself, asking a friend or classmate to read your work, and, finally, make an appointment with me or with the UCONN Writing Center to revise your essay.

Step 5:

Upload to Turnitin by 11:59pm on Monday, December 9, 2019