

Analytical Essay 4:

In this essay, you are expected to give your own independent, interpretative position on the question below and to support your thinking with close reading and analysis. You will need to synthesize both texts and make connections between them. **You will also have the option to build context around your argument using the issue of the coronavirus pandemic.**

Texts:

Carp, Alex. "Slavery and the American University." *The New York Review of Books*, Feb 2018.
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*, May 2014.

Optional: Darity, William A. "The Racial Disparities of Coronavirus Point Yet Again to the Need for Reparations." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 20, 2020.

<https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/coronavirus-black-americans-racial-disparities-reparations-20200420.html>

Prompt:

In "Case for Reparations," Coates is interested in something beyond financial compensation by calling on the American people to "wrestle publicly" with the question of reparations and the long history of slavery, racism, violence, and inequality in this U.S (64). For him, reparations would ultimately mean "the full acceptance of our collective biography and its consequences" (57). Likewise, in "Slavery and the American University," Carp praises the university-led research projects that uncover hidden institutional relationships to slavery and invite a "collective grappling with the present" and the "moral issues" that arise (15).

According to both authors, history *demand*s something of us in the present. History asks: what are we going to do now? Through textual analysis of both essays, respond to the following with your own interpretative thesis: **What is the role of "inheritance" when responding to collective "moral issues" in present-day society?**

Thinking to get started:

- What does "inheritance" mean? Make a list from the articles: Who inherits? What do they inherit?
- Think about who is included in the "collective" in both articles. Does the meaning change if you reduce or expand the bounds of the group?
- What are the most important "moral issues" in present-day society? Make a list with a column for each author. Then, add a column for the moral issues that you observe.
- What are the different kinds of responses that the authors propose? For example, a university-led project is different than passing legislation through Congress. What are the impacts of these different efforts? How do you evaluate them?

Details to remember:

Rough draft: **4 full pages** Due: **Tues 4/28**, Canvas at 12:00pm (noon) EST.
Final draft: **5 full pages** Due: **Tues 5/5**, Canvas at 12:00pm (noon) EST.

Formatting: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced
MLA style: heading and title, 1" margins, parenthetical citations, Works Cited