



Ethnic Studies Lesson 8C: Conclusion—The Essay

TOPIC:
CONCLUSION

GRADE LEVELS:
11-12

TIME:
1½ HOURS

California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Themes, Values, and Principles Alignment

Themes:

1. Identity
4. Social Movements and Equity

Values and Principles:

1. Cultivate empathy, community actualization, cultural perpetuity, self-worth, self-determination, and the holistic well-being of all participants, especially Native People/s and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).
6. Connect ourselves to past and contemporary social movements that struggle for social justice and an equitable and democratic society, and conceptualize, imagine, and build new possibilities for a post-racist, post-systemic-racism society that promotes collective narratives of transformative resistance, critical hope, and radical healing.

California English and Social Science Standards Alignment

English Language Arts Standards (11th and 12th Grade):

Reading—Informational Text (RI.11-12)

Evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the authors' claims, reasoning, and evidence. (RI.11-12.6)

Writing—(W.11-12)

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. (W.11-12.2)

Develop claims and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases. (W.11-12.1b)

CONCLUSION

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. (W.11-12.1)

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (W.11-12.5)

Social Sciences Standards (11th and 12th Grade):

History-Social Science Content Standards—(Grades 9-12)

Analyze the impact of social movements and reforms on changing societal norms and policies. (11.10)

Analyze the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases and legislation on the advancement of civil rights and liberties. (12.5)

Lesson Purpose

Students will summarize and evaluate their learning regarding the effectiveness of civil rights measures for different ethnic groups in the US.

Essential Questions

How effective have civil rights measures been for different ethnic groups in the United States over the last 400 years? Include measures of a democratic society that were used to improve civil rights as well as a counterargument and rebuttal about whiteness in America.

Materials

[Cabrini University: Counterargument and Rebuttal](#)

[Sample essay outline](#)

Vocabulary

counterargument

rebuttal

Lesson Steps

Step 1:

- Remind students that their essay should contain a counterargument and rebuttal. As a class, read [Cabrini University: Counterargument and Rebuttal](#). As students listen, they should take notes on how they would determine a counterargument to their thesis.
- When the reading is complete, have the students meet in pairs. Students should help each other look at their essay thesis and determine if it has a problem, disadvantage, or alternative explanation. Once that is done, pairs should help each other state a case against their thesis and then create a rebuttal that reaffirms their argument.

CONCLUSION

- Remind students of their Unit 7 essay on whiteness in America. That essay may provide a topic sentence, evidence, and conclusions for a counterargument. The questions from that end-of-unit exercise might also help. They can be found again here.
 - In what ways is this thesis correct, “White Americans are the majority in the US and have systematically kept other ethnic groups from obtaining their fair share of civil rights”?
 - How has the construct and classification of being white changed over time?
 - What percentage of Americans are white, and is that category clear?
 - What groups within the white category have had their civil rights limited?
 - What might the percentage of the white population be in the future?
 - Who is responsible for ensuring civil rights for ethnic groups?
 - What measures of a democratic society can be used to ensure basic civil rights?
- Students should present their counterargument and rebuttal to the teacher for approval before the end of class.

Step 2:

- Continue working on the final essay question for this class, “How effective have civil rights measures been for different ethnic groups in the United States over the last 400 years? Include measures of a democratic society that were used to improve civil rights as well as a counterargument and rebuttal about whiteness in America.” Let students know that this is their last class period to prepare their essay. It is due during the next class period. This will be a summary of their learning from KWL charts, unit essays, and homework assignments.
- During this class session, students will continue to work on their essay. Show students a [sample essay outline](#). Depending on the level of class writing, students could also choose to write a more advanced essay by topic—housing, education, violence, citizenship, economic success, etc.—or by democratic methods—citizenship, voting rights, legislation, Supreme Court rulings, organizations, etc.
- Students should carefully check their citations and use peer editing where helpful to check for citing their sources.

Step 3:

- As a class, ask students this unit’s question, “How effective have civil rights measures been for different ethnic groups in the United States over the last 400 years? Include measures of a democratic society that were used to improve civil rights as well as a counterargument and rebuttal about whiteness in America.”

Essential Question Assessment, Application, Action, and Reflection

Ask students to complete an essay (nine paragraphs or longer) summarizing their learning of “How effective have civil rights measures been for different ethnic groups in the United States over the last 400 years? Include measures of a democratic society that were used to improve civil rights as well as a counterargument and rebuttal about whiteness in America.” All students should have access to the KWL charts for all units, previous unit essays, and homework assignments. All students should cite the sources of their information accurately.

Additional Readings and Resources

Anderson, William L., and David Kiriazis. “Rents and Race: Legacies of Progressive Politics.” *The Independent Review* 18, no. 1 (2013): 115-133.

Bernstein, David E. *Classified: The Untold Story of Racial Classification in America*. Bombardier, 2022.

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Bernstein, David E., and Ilya Somin. "Judicial Power & Civil Rights Reconsidered," George Mason University School of Law Working Paper Series, Paper 9, 2004. <https://law.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1008&context=gmulwps>

Moreno, Paul D. *Black Americans and Organized Labor: A New History*. Louisiana State University Press, 2005.

Reilly, Wilfred. *Taboo: Ten Facts You Can't Talk About*. Regnery, 2020, chap. 7.

Roback, Jennifer. "Racism as Rent-Seeking." *Economic Inquiry* 27 (October 1989): 661-681.

Thomas SowellTV. "The Poorest People in America Are Whites." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGvn9YedVnU>

NOTE TO EDUCATORS REGARDING ADDITIONAL READINGS AND RESOURCES: America is a pluralistic country, ethnically. It is also a pluralistic country politically—left, right, and center. Ethnic studies educators have ready access to resources from the left-of-center in the [2021 California Model Curriculum](#) and in the [Liberated Model Curriculum](#). This Comparative Cultures Ethnic Studies curriculum favors teachers exposing students to views from across the political spectrum. Educators often lack guidance to materials from outside the left-of-center. Therefore, in the sections on Additional Readings and Resources, the Comparative Cultures Ethnic Studies curriculum alerts educators to credible resources that provide an alternative to the other Model Curricula. In doing so, this curriculum encourages educators to acquaint students with evidence-based views from left, right, and center.

Support Ethnic Studies 8A: Conclusion Essay

How effective have civil rights measures been for different ethnic groups in the United States over the last 400 years? Include measures of a democratic society that were used to improve civil rights as well as a counterargument and rebuttal about whiteness in America.

I. Introduction

- a. Explanation of the topic
- b. Thesis statement

II. Body Paragraphs

A. Native Americans

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

B. Latino/Hispanic Americans

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

C. African Americans

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

D. Asian Americans

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

E. Jewish Americans

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

F. Counterargument and Rebuttal on Whiteness in America

- a. Topic sentence
- b. Evidence of civil rights effectiveness and democratic measures
- c. Conclusion

III. Conclusion

- a. Restatement of thesis
- b. Restate main points from the body
- c. Make a point with the ending