



Essay on **Between the World and Me**

Between the World and Me is a book about a difficult topic—race in America. This issue touches each and every one of us, though our experiences (and race) may be different from the author Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book represents a very raw and real expression of his experiences growing up in America as a black man and his wishes for his son. We all learn from hearing about people's experiences. What can we learn from Ta-Nehisi Coates' experiences? Did you find this book important to you personally? Do you believe this book is important socially and politically for America? How? Why?

This essay will be focused on your interpretation of and reaction to the book *Between the World and Me*. In this essay, you will state an opinion about the book following one of the three Essay Questions below, and then develop an argument structured around reasons in support of that opinion. No research is needed for this essay, though you may refer to relevant personal experiences and current events. You will be expected to refer to and quote from the book extensively.

Essay Question Options:

- 1) Do you find this book important to you personally?
--what specifically did you find important or not important and why is it important to you?
- 2) Do you believe this book is important socially and politically for America?
--what specifically is important or not important and why?
- 3) Is this book important (or not important) both personally to you and politically for our country?

Big Picture View Your Essay Should Tackle

The author speaks about “the Dream” and communicates an implicit understanding of what “the Dream” is and represents. What do you believe he means by “the Dream?” The book overall is a critique of this Dream and our society that is built upon it and seems to sustain it (though many people may be blind to it). Somewhere in your paper—perhaps throughout the entire paper—you should deal with what the Dream represents and how it connects to your reaction and thoughts about the book.

Essay Requirements

This essay should be an argumentative essay with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion, and it should use textual evidence to support its thesis. Develop a thorough response based on our study Supporting a Position from Sources in Chapter 12 of *The Bedford Guide*.

No research sources should be included. The length should be a minimum of 750 words and a maximum of 1000 words. The final draft should be turned in using MLA Manuscript and Documentation format.

