

## Getting Started with Essay #4: Essay on *Between the World and Me*

### A) Thinking About and Picking a Topic

This essay is a response paper—in it you will be expressing your thoughts and opinions on the novel. Before you begin your E4 Invention, you will need to decide (at least provisionally) which approach you will take. The topics offer you three main paths:

Path #1: Do you find the book important to you personally?

In this approach, you will be connecting the book to your personal experience, values, and philosophy. What is important to you personally, and how does this book fit or not fit what you consider to be important personally? Has the book impacted your thinking and beliefs on a personal level?

Path #2: Do you believe this book is important socially and politically for America?

Perhaps you do not want or feel comfortable expressing personal connections to the book. The second essay question focuses not on self but on society. What social and political experiences, values, and philosophies does this book connect?

Path #3: Is this book important (or not important) both personally to you and politically for our country? This approach is a mixed approach where you can tie together both personal and social connections. You can even mix your response to the importance of the book:

Example: Although I did not find the book important to me individually, I did find the book to have major importance to our democracy.

You are encouraged to think beyond simple yes-no answers to more complicated answers to these essay questions.

### B) Doing the E4 Invention

The following invention exercise seeks to help you begin this essay by

- creating an outline of the book so you have a big picture view of it (we do this collaboratively)
- exploring your reactions to the book by looking at specific passages

To do your E4 Invention, open this document and follow the instructions.

-- <http://www.lirvin.net/1301sitebb/E4InventionF16.pdf>

Be sure to read the E4 Inventions of your peers. We will create an outline summary of the book that you might review and refer to as well.

