



Department of English  
English Writing Placement Examination

**ESSAY WRITING INSTRUCTIONS**

**CONTEXT:**

At Howard University, professors across all majors ask students to demonstrate that they can accurately interpret and respond to course readings and additional sources through their writing. In short, the writing tasks college professors require may look different than what you were expected to write in high school. With that in mind, we are asking you to simulate a college writing experience by composing a brief comparative essay of two articles' claims and evidence.

**PROMPT:**

In recent years, the topic of diversity and inclusion has become a common refrain for those seeking explanations for the persistence of unequal treatment. Some argue that more attention to diversity in classroom reading lists could lead to a better understanding of racial division and discrimination.

Read the article "The Economics of Magazine Diversity" by Ta-Nehisi Coates and the blog "Revolutionary Acts of Language" by Keith Gilyard, then **using one or both** articles, discuss the authors' claims. As you discuss the claims, use evidence from the readings to support your own claims about why the author believes certain types of diverse writing to be important. Please type your essay at the end of this document and save your changes.

**SUBMISSION OPTIONS:**

- **Option 1:** Type your essay in the text box provided in the online assessment.
- **Option 2:** Upload your typewritten essay in Word or PDF using the upload function provided in the online assessment.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Essays must be submitted online by 11:59 pm on **June 28, 2021**.

**ADDITIONAL TIPS:**

1. Length of your response: **750-word** college-level essay.
  2. Focus on the articles: **Note that this task does not ask for your opinion** but rather asks you to discuss how the authors make their claims and **for you to support your inferences about their claims with evidence from their writings**.
  3. Engage with the articles: Most students find that in a short writing task like this one, paraphrasing and/or including very short quotes are more effective **than long quotations**.
  4. Below are links to the articles. Please open them at a computer or laptop, as they may not work when opened on a phone or tablet. If the links will not open on your computer or laptop, try using the title and author's name together to search for them online.
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/09/the-economics-of-magazines-and-diversity/261597/>
  - <https://www.keithgilyard.com/post/revolutionary-acts-of-language>