

Double consciousness assignment

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Sammie Bruit Com 661 Extra Credit Paper December 4, 2014 Double-consciousness, the veil, and Ferguson W. E. B. Du Boise first coined the term "double-consciousness" in the early 1900s. "It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity." (Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk") Du Bois also believes that African-Americans are "born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world. According to Du Bois, this "veil" concept can be taken here ways. First, it suggests the literal darker skin of black people, physically separating them from whites. Second, the idea of a veil suggests white people's inability in seeing African Americans as "true" U. S. -Americans, and refers to black people's difficulty under a racist system to see themselves in a way other than the way white Americans define them. This creates a double-consciousness.

This inability of white people to see through the veil was reflected in the attitudes surrounding the police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teen in Ferguson, Missouri this summer on August 9. According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, blacks and whites have starkly different views of this tragic incident. White people tend to downplay the racial significance of this tragedy whereas black people are more likely to stress the importance of race.

Many black people and people of color seem to view "race" and racism as salient and central to their reality. Many white people may seem to consider "race" more or less as a marginal issue, and may even consider racism as a thing of the past, or as anomalies in contemporary U. S. Society. Since the <https://assignbuster.com/double-consciousness-assignment/>

Civil Rights Movement of the sass, many people of color have embraced and expanded the meaning of “ racism” to reflect contemporary realities, while many white people have not.

By now, you’ve heard about the Ferguson grand Jury’s decision not to indict Darrel Wilson for the killing of Michael Brown. Mayhem ensued both in the streets of Ferguson, Missouri as well as on the screens of our computers, tablets, phones - every one of our social media sites were cluttered with opinions, comments, grievances, and views about the whole ordeal.

Washrags such as #blackmailer’s became exceptionally prominent, mostly among the black internet users. This sparked yet another hashtag trend, #Alleviators.

This is a perfect example of the veil between blacks and whites today. The black/monolith community predominantly focuses strictly on race as the main issue here, while non-black (white) communities view race as a peripheral issue and attempt to “ water it down. ” Double consciousness By Camembert W. E. B. Du Bois first coined the term “ double-consciousness” in the early sass. “ It is looked on in amused contempt and pity. ” (Du Bois, “ The Souls of Black Folk”) Du Bois might see in this American world. According to Dubois, this “ veil” concept can be taken three ways.

First, it suggests the literal darker skin of black people, physically separating them from whites. Second, the idea of a veil suggests white people’s tension in Ferguson, Missouri this summer on August 9. According to a recent Pew survey, #Alleviators. This is a perfect example of the veil between blacks and whites today. The black/minority community predominantly focuses strictly on race

as the main issue here, while non-black (white) communities view race as a peripheral issue and attempt to “ water it down. ”