Final Essay – Lens Synthesis (200 points)

This final essay has multiple parts, some of which you have already written. You’ll be treating Tara Yosso’s “Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth” as a lens that you’ll use to read/examine aspects of your own life and those of others in the real world. You’ll also conduct some research on a well-known person whose successes and achievements are tied to Yosso’s cultural wealth model and you will reflect more fully on the cultural capital(s) you’ve utilized in your own life to succeed.

What do you mean by lens? The concepts and arguments that Yosso presents in her article will make up the lens. These concepts are a framework that will help you understand or interpret your own cultural capital, or the cultural capital of others.

Your thesis should answer the following question: How do Yosso’s under-recognized and under-utilized categories of cultural capital provide a powerful method of achieving goals?

Some summary of Yosso’s article early in your essay, would be helpful in setting up the meat of your essay. Highlight at least 2 (and up to 4) of Yosso’s capitals in your essay. You’ll clearly define each capital, quoting and paraphrasing appropriate portions of her article, then provide examples in the form of real or fictional people.

Examples from reality - selecting a person/a group of people: Try to think of a well-known person who exemplifies at least one of Yosso’s cultural capitals. In other words, who is truly successful? How did they get there? The example we’ve discussed in class is Malala Yousafzai. You will need to select a specific person (like Malala) or a specific group of people (Women Against Trump) who are using/used these alternate cultural capitals. Once you’ve determined who you’d like to focus on, you’ll conduct some research on your selected person or group. The people do not have to have educational successes. You may select anyone who has succeeded in their chosen field or pursuit. For example, you could select Bill Gates or Geronimo or even Civil Rights Activists. You just need to be able to articulate how they use aspirational, linguistic, familial, social, navigational, or resistance capitals.

Examples from your own life: Please consult the “narrative pointers” PDF before you write your cultural capital narratives. Give specific examples/evidence of the cultural wealth in your life and discuss how they have benefited you from an educational or professional standpoint.

Requirements: 6 pages, MLA Format with Works Cited page, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font only.

Due Dates:

• Annotated Article (10 points): Thurs. Nov.9
• Worksheet (20 points): Part 1 due 11/14, Part 2 due 11/16
• *NOTE: We will have research session at the library 11/14 from 8-8:50am*
• First Draft (50 points) - In-class Conferencing: Tues. 11/28 or Thurs. 11/30
• Peer Review Workshop: Tues. 12/5
• Final Essay (200 points): Tuesday, Dec.12, 9:00am: Submit one Microsoft Word file to Blackboard