

Directions:

1. Complete the "Reading for Meaning" page.
2. Annotate the article strategically (that means developing thoughts that you'd be interested in expanding upon in the written reflection).
3. Write a **well-developed They Say / I Say** response to the author's argument(s)--**not** a summary of the article--on your own sheet of paper.

Guidelines:

- a. Clever title properly capitalized.
- b. Uses They Say / I Say template to fully develop both the author's and the writer's arguments.
- c. Appropriately leads into, blends, **parenthetically cites**, and discusses **at least** one quote or key fact / statistic from the article.
- d. Explain each quote and discuss your reaction to it (agree or disagree).
- e. Concluding sentences.
- f. 250+ words, NEAT, LEGIBLE, NO DISTRACTING ERRORS.

How Will This Be Graded?

Reading			Writing		
4-5 Strong effort. Mature thinking is obvious. The student makes several margin notes, showing thoughtful interaction with the text. The student circles and defines unknown or challenging words. Margin notes show that the reader is asking questions, identifying main ideas, and connecting to the focus question. Reading for Meaning statements are supported or refuted with relevant evidence.	3 Adequate effort. The student interacts with the text, but may struggle to dig deep. The student may circle and define unknown or challenging words. Margin notes show that the reader is using some reading strategies to improve comprehension. Reading for Meaning statements are attempted.	2 Some effort. Interaction with the text is basic. Margin notes are there but do not demonstrate that the reader is thinking deeply about the text. Reading for Meaning statements are not all completed. 0-1 Little to no effort displayed. Margin notes may not even be there. Reading for Meaning statements are not attempted.	5 Outstanding effort. The student obviously proofed this paragraph, focusing on neatness and accuracy. Exceeds all requirements.	4 Good effort. The product is neat and legible. Meets all requirements. 3 Adequate effort. The product is legible. Meets most requirements.	2 Weak effort. The student only completed some of the task. 0-1 The student completed little to none of the task.
			Total AoW Grade: _____/10		

Miss America and social media's ignorant bigotry

By Leonard Pitts Jr. | September 21, 2013 via *The Miami Herald*

(Begins on next page.)

Glossary

Sikhs -A monotheistic religion founded in northern India, which is characterized by belief in a cycle of reincarnation from which humans can free themselves by living righteous lives as active members of society. tautology -Needless repetition of the same idea in different words; redundancy. ignorant- Lacking education or knowledge. bigotry - extreme intolerance of any belief that differs from one's own, especially in terms of other races or religions Al-Qaeda - a loosely-knit militant Islamic organization that carries out attacks and bombings in the attempt to disrupt the economies and influence of Western nations and advance Islamic extremism slack-jawed - With the mouth in an open position and the jaw hanging loosely, especially as indicating bewilderment or astonishment knuckle-dragging - Holding beliefs, or having attitudes thought to be primitive or uncivilised; hence apelike	dull-eyed - slow and apathetic or uncaring stupefyingly - to overwhelm with amazement; astound; astonish. Hindus - A religion, predominantly in India, characterized by a belief in reincarnation and a supreme being of many forms and natures self-negating - disproving or invalidating your own argument bon mot - a clever and fitting remark, from French for "good word" archaic- ancient or old-fashioned retrograde - moving backward or declining to worse conditions xenophobic - unreasonably fearful of or hating anyone or anything foreign or strange.
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Miss America and social media's ignorant bigotry

By Leonard Pitts Jr. | September 21, 2013 via *The Miami Herald*

A couple months ago, I got an email from Supreet.

Supreet is in the 11th grade. He shops at Wal-Mart and plays basketball. His father came to this country from India and both are **Sikhs**, followers of a centuries-old faith founded in the Punjab region. Supreet wanted to tell me what it is like being a Sikh in America.

He wrote about how, after 9/11, his father became "perhaps the most hated man in our small town." He wrote about how his dad had to stop wearing the turban Sikh men use to cover their "kesh," the hair their faith forbids them to cut. He wrote about bullying and depression suffered by young Sikhs. He wrote about black boys who taunted him as "Osama's son." He wrote about Wade Michael Page, who in 2012, shot 10 people, killing six, at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, likely thinking it was a mosque. He wrote about how President Obama canceled a visit to a Sikh holy site in 2010, which some people thought was because male visitors are required to cover their heads and Obama didn't want anyone calling him a Muslim.

"But Sikhs are NOT Muslims," wrote Supreet. "Why do we keep getting labeled as Muslims?"

It is a plaintive question with which the new Miss America would doubtless sympathize. Nina Davuluri of New York state won the crown last week, becoming the first Indian American to do so. Her triumph was marred by an eruption of — pardon the **tautology** — **ignorant bigotry** on social media.

"Audrey Graham" tweeted, "Miss America is a terrorist. Whatever. It's fine."

"Luke Brasili" tweeted, "9/11 was four days ago and she gets miss America?"

"De La Rutherford" tweeted, "Congratulations, **Al-Qaeda**. Our Miss America is one of you."

And you are almost — almost — less appalled by the bigotry than by the **slack-jawed**,

"People [are]
so stupefyingly
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knuckle-dragging, dull-eyed ignorance of people so **stupefyingly** uninformed that they can't even hate straight. Miss America's parents are **Hindus**. Hindus are not Muslims, either. Not that hating them would be acceptable even if they were. And not that the distinction will matter to the folks quoted above. All dark-skinned people with exotic names or unfamiliar customs are Muslim terrorists to that bunch of nuclear physicists.

There was more. "Jessica Ayres:" offered this **self-negating bon mot** when Davuluri won: "I swear I'm not racist but this is America." Then there was "Jonah Carlin," who tweeted images of blonde, blue-eyed Miss Kansas, Theresa Vail, dubbing her "a real Miss America."

And so it goes.

Some of us are not beauty pageant fans. Indeed, some of us find them **archaic** outposts of **retrograde** sexism. But surely all of us can agree that if we are going to have such pageants, they should not be stained by **xenophobic** prejudice.

"Here you are equal,
here you are free,
here you may rise to
whatever height
aspiration & hard work
will take you."

Nina Davuluri deserves better. So does Supreet. Their families, after all, chose this country. Consider what that means: to give up everything you have always known and of all the other options available, decide that this is where you want to be. Presumably, one factor in that choice was America's promise: here you are equal, here you are free, here you may rise to whatever height aspiration and hard work will take you.

So the treatment they have received is not just ugly, but embarrassing, and not just embarrassing but

promise-breaking. Jonah Carlin and others like him need to read the writing on the demographic wall. What was exotic and unfamiliar yesterday is shopping at Wal-Mart and shooting hoops today. Change is coming; that fact is non-negotiable. But our success or lack thereof in incorporating that change will determine what America is 50 years from now.

Step one: decide if we are serious in what we claim ourselves to be. In other words, we can either keep America's promise or else, stop making it.

Reading for Meaning

Agree?	Statements	Your Evidence
yes no	1. Pitts believes grit will get you far in the USA.	
yes no	2. Pitts believes it is pathetic to look down upon people of other races and beliefs.	
yes no	3. Pitts believes America is gauranteed to be amazing in 50 years.	
yes no	4. Some people believe beauty pageants are outdated.	

Written Response

Use Graff/Birkenstein's They Say / I Say template to identify, pull apart, and respond to the author's argument. Your response should be at least 250 words.

1. Clever title properly capitalized.
2. Uses They Say / I Say template to fully develop both the author's and the writer's arguments.
3. Accurately identifies a central claim of the article.
4. Appropriately leads into, blends, **parenthetically cites**, and discusses **at least** one quote or key fact / statistic from the article.
5. Explain each quote and discuss your reaction to it (agree or disagree).
6. Concluding sentences.
7. 250+ words, NEAT, LEGIBLE, NO DISTRACTING ERRORS.

Self-Editing Checklist

I've read through my response, stopping and correcting anything that sounds wordy, awkward, or redundant.	
I have led into and smoothly blended at least one quotation from the article.	
I've properly cited the quotation using parenthetical citation.	
I've capitalized and properly formatted the article title: "Miss America and Social Media's Ignorant Bigotry" by Leonard Pitts	
I have used logical, appropriate transitions in my response.	
My paragraph ends with a logical concluding sentence which sums things up.	
My response is at least 250+ words in length. I've written my word count at the bottom of the paragraph or as a comment on the Doc.	
It may sound simple, but I've made sure to capitalize the first word in each sentence.	
Each sentence has a complete thought. NO SENTENCE FRAGMENTS.	
Sentences are separated by appropriate punctuation. NO RUN-ONS.	