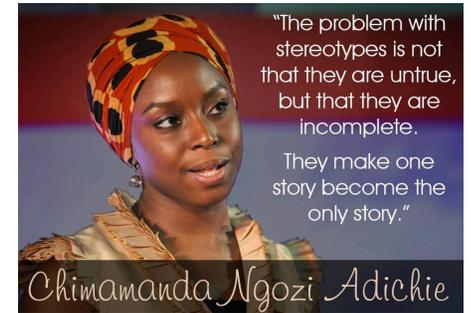


## Current Worldview

**We all have our own view of what it means to be American, and reading can broaden this view by allowing us to understand diverse perspectives or to break down stereotypes. In a well-written essay, analyze how an American text uses literary elements and techniques to develop a complex view of what it means to be American.**



1. Rephrase what the essay prompt is asking you to write about:

2. What unit text will you use in your essay?

3. View some example techniques and literary elements and circle ones you may discuss from your selected story:

Techniques	Literary Elements
<p>Techniques are what the author does within their narrative to reveal themes and share messages.</p> <p>The author:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compares</li><li>• Contrasts</li><li>• Juxtaposes</li><li>• Characterizes</li><li>• Stereotypes</li></ul>	<p>Literary elements are what the author uses within their narrative to highlight their techniques, create style, and reveal themes within their narratives.</p> <p>The author uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contrasting characters</li><li>• Figurative Language<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Metaphors</li><li>○ Similes</li><li>○ Personification</li></ul></li><li>• Word choice (Diction)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Connotations</li></ul></li><li>• Tone</li></ul>

## Writing Rubric

As this is your first essay, you will be awarded 70% for trying your best on the essay, so you automatically start with a C just by trying your best to write **at least an introduction paragraph and supporting body paragraph!** The remaining 30% of your score will be determined by your score using the rubric.

	4	3	2	1
Statement of Purpose	Response is fully sustained, consistent, and focused. Main idea is focused, clearly stated, strongly maintained and communicated clearly.	Response is adequately sustained and generally focused. Focus is clear, but some loosely maintained material is present.	Response is somewhat maintained, but has a minor drift in focus. Does not sufficiently sustain the main idea because it is unclear or unfocused.	Response provides little or no focus. Brief or major drift. Confusing focus.
Organization	Clear and effective organization. Uses meaningful transitions. Logical progression. Effective introduction and conclusion. Strong connections between ideas.	Evident organizational structure and completeness. Minor flaws and some loosely connected ideas. Adequate transitions, intro, conclusion and connection between ideas.	Inconsistent organization and flaws are evident. Inconsistent use of transitions. Uneven progression of ideas. Weak intro and conclusion, and weak connections between ideas.	Little or no organization. Few transitions. Evident extra ideas.
Elaboration of Evidence	Thorough and convincing support for the main ideas including effective use of sources, facts, and details. Evidence is smoothly integrated and complete. Effective use of elaboration.	Adequate support for the main idea using sources, facts and details. Some evidence is integrated, but citations are not perfect. Uses some elaboration.	Uneven or incomplete support using partial or uneven use of sources, facts and details. Citations are weakly used. Uneven use of elaboration.	Minimal support or evidence that includes little or no use of sources, facts and details. Evidence is minimal, absent, in error or irrelevant.
Language & Vocabulary	Clearly and effectively expresses ideas using precise language. Academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate.	Adequately expresses ideas, mixing precise and general language. Generally appropriate vocabulary.	Uneven expression of ideas using simplistic language. Inappropriate vocabulary.	Vague or confusing response. Limited language or domain-specific vocabulary. Little sense of audience or purpose.
Conventions	Strong command of conventions. Few errors are present. Effective and consistent punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Adequate command of conventions. Some errors in grammar. Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization and spelling.	Partial command of conventions. Frequent errors obscure meaning. Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization and punctuation.	Lack of command of conventions: errors are frequent and severe. Meaning is lost.

## Developing Your Introduction

To help you begin the planning stages of your essay and to develop your introduction paragraph, fill in the blanks below. You may use this, if you choose, to start your essay.

\_\_\_\_\_ (add a hook that engages readers into what it means to be American; this can be an overarching idea from your Being American quickwrite and can be more than one sentence but should not overtake the rest of your intro). Our lives only give each of us one experience of what it means to be American, but when we take time to experience stories by authors who are part of America's minority groups or featuring characters different than us, we can broaden this view and \_\_\_\_\_ (understand diverse perspectives OR break down stereotypes). Through \_\_\_\_\_ 's (Author's) use of \_\_\_\_\_ (select one or two literary elements/techniques) in \_\_\_\_\_, (Story Title) it is clear that one aspect of being American is \_\_\_\_\_ (big idea) and because of this \_\_\_\_\_ (edited theme statement).

## Example Introduction & Thesis:

America is known as the melting pot of the world because we are a country that is made up of diverse and sometimes contradictory cultures. Through my own experiences, I have seen this diversity of culture and background provide opportunities for each of us to grow and learn from each other. However, too often I have also seen that it divides us and can create many different forms of racism and hatred. Our lives only give each of us one experience of what it means to be American, but when we take time to experience stories by authors who are part of America's minority groups or featuring characters different than us, we can broaden this view and break down stereotypes. Through Harper Lee's use of characterization and juxtaposition in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, it is clear that one aspect of being American is overcoming racism and because of this we must be willing to acknowledge the stereotypes we have created and perpetuated throughout our history to be able to move forward or else we will rely on bias perspectives and allow racism and discrimination to persist.

Your thesis/introduction provides you guidance for the rest of your essay where you use specific details from your selected text to support your claim. Return to your selected text to highlight multiple details and quotes from your selected text that support your thesis. Use your annotations to help you deepen your commentary and explanations within your essay.