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Mapping Your Essay to the Model

Use the *Annotated Student Example Essay* as a **blueprint** to think of what binary you choose.

By the end of today's exercise, you will understand how you could discuss your binary.

Part 1: Read The *Annotated Student Example Essay*.

As you read, focus on **how** the essay builds its argument — not just what it's about.

Section	What the Model Does	Key Examples	What We Noticed
Introduction Paragraph 1	Begins with lived experience - defines the Black/White binary Introduces the “glitch” of multiracial identity Ends with a thesis that talks about the system (matrix)	Uses personal story Example is the “black/white binary bulldozer”	Thesis analyzes how the system works, not just feelings, & not just a simple idea of this is the binary
Body Paragraphs 2–3	Gives examples from history, “One-drop rule”	Laws + academic source like Harvard (credible)	Moves from history to an example from present Look at perception of race now
Body Paragraphs 4–7	Gives example of racism towards a public figure They only see Markle for her black DNA and use that to accuse her of things Rooted in racism that continues to spread in our “progressive” society	Utilizes the story (oppression?) of a public figure, Meghan Markle	It expands on the idea that society only sees you for your minority side further proving the “one-drop rule”. This is deeply rooted in racism. It also highlights that society in fact is not progressive.
Body Paragraphs 8–11	Even famous people are not seen as ‘authentically one ethnicity’ -> Gives example through Henry Golding from <i>Crazy Rich Asians</i> He had to ‘prove’ he was authentically Asian publicly by telling people his	Henry Golding backlash after his role in <i>Crazy Rich Asians</i> , and responses from colleagues & Public.	By calling the audience to question what it means to be authentic, and presenting a real-world example of an injustice because of racial binaries, the author is able to show the

	roots, even being disrespected by colleagues. ‘What does it mean to be authentic?’		audience how severe the issue is.
Body Paragraphs 12-15	Demonstrates how ethnic identity is not defined by external factors but rather one’s DNA. Gives an example of the presence of the Black-White binary bulldozer in American politics.	The author contrasts their exposure to white culture to their exposure to polynesian culture. Uses the story of Kamala Harris’ vice presidency as a blatant example of the Black-White binary bulldozer.	Despite how ‘authentic’ a mixed-race individual may be, it is ultimately the external perspectives that are going to be more scrutinizing than their own thoughts. It’s one ethnicity or another, and this is exemplified through Kamala Harris’ experiences with the critiques of others— not her own internal validation.
Conclusion Paragraphs 16-17	Exemplifies the need for society to truly become “progressive” Highlights the population/growing population of multicultural people Expands on the idea that race is a social construct/invention	Population sources (Pew Research)	Race (not really background) is a social invention. It eventually becomes dehumanizing— separating society & individuals from people’s own character and backgrounds.